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Register of sex offences 'flawed'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was given a warning last night that the national sex offenders register was fatally flawed after it emerged that probation officers are banned from giving addresses of paedophiles and sex attackers under their supervision to the police.

Instead it will be up to such offenders to contact the police to have their names put on the register before the middle of next month. Those who have received community punishments or are under supervision after release from jail are expected to give their addresses to their local police station.

Last night probation officers said that getting the names of sex offenders currently under supervision would be a "shambles". Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that many would not contact the police in spite of the risk of a £5,000 fine for failing to register.

"The major flaw in the way this is being done is that we are dealing with a group of people whom everybody agrees are very deviant," he said. "It is a big assumption to think these people will walk to the police station or write a letter to the local chief of police by the middle of next month providing officers with their names and addresses."

Under guidance sent to chief probation officers and the secretaries of all 52 probation committees in England and Wales, the Home Office has outlined the complex procedures that must take place in advising sex offenders under supervision.

Within the next two weeks probation officers will be expected to contact every one of the estimated 4,500 sex offenders under their supervision. Each must be handed a notice informing them of the need to

register their name and address with the local police before September 14 or risk a £5,000 fine and or six months in jail.

But the guidance warns probation staff that they must take great care when advising an offender whether he or she is required to register. "In cases where there is any doubt, the offender should be advised to seek independent legal advice," the guidance states.

Convicted sex offenders under supervision in the community or released on licence from jail will be expected to give police their name and all other names they have ever used, home address and a date of birth.

Under the Sex Offenders Act a register is to be set up to allow police to track serious sex offenders and paedophiles across the country. The register, which will be held on the Police National Computer, will hold the names and addresses of criminals convicted of a range of sex offences.

Mr Fletcher accused the Government of attempting to set up the register too quickly. He said it would be extremely difficult at such short notice to contact all sex offenders currently on supervision.

"Probation staff will do their best but given the time of year and the short notice to disseminate the information, it is highly unlikely that all sex offenders under supervision in the community will be registered by September 14."

A Home Office spokeswoman confirmed that probation staff would not be allowed to assist police in compiling the register by handing over the names and addresses of sex offenders currently under supervision.

"The act requires the offender to notify the police, not the probation service," they said.

Offender is tagged

A CONVICTED paedophile who has warned that he will attack another youngster last night became the first child sex offender to be electronically tagged.

Graham Seddon, 43, agreed to be voluntarily tagged in an attempt to provide protection for the public even though he

is not on bail or serving a sentence.

Seddon, who served six years of a nine-year sentence for the rape and sexual assault of a nine-year-old girl was arrested this year on Merseyside with a bag of sweets and a colouring book. He said he was looking for a child for sex and was held under the Mental Health Act. But because his condition is said to be untreatable, he cannot be detained.

Greater Manchester probation service has persuaded him to be tagged even though he has not committed any crime since being released from jail earlier this year.



Kelly Fisher, the model who has filed a suit claiming that she and Dodi Fayed were to be married last weekend

Dodi 'promised to marry me'

By EMMA WILKINS AND GILES WHITFIELD

A CALIFORNIAN model last night claimed that Dodi Fayed had broken his promise to marry her. They had been due to wed in Los Angeles last weekend, she said.

The model, Kelly Fisher, 31, is due to launch a lawsuit in Los Angeles today in a move which could jeopardise Mr Fayed's relationship with Diana, Princess of Wales.

The suit claims that Mr Fayed was engaged to Ms Fisher when he was embracing the Princess on his father's £15 million yacht in the Mediterranean.

Mr Fayed, 41, the son of Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, is "reluctant" about the prospect of a lawsuit, according to a spokesman for the family.

"We are content to leave it to the good sense of the British and American people to judge this development for what it is," he said. "If a writ is issued, Mr Fayed's lawyers in Los Angeles will respond in the appropriate way."

In a statement issued by her lawyer last night, Ms Fisher said she had been with Mr Fayed's yacht, the *Jonikal*, in St Tropez just a few weeks before the Princess. The couple met in Paris in summer last year and in November Mr Fayed asked her parents for permission to marry her, Ms Fisher claimed.

During their engagement, they stayed at luxury hotels and enjoyed several trips on the *Jonikal*. She learnt that her



Allred: has contested a suit with Fayed empire before



"I've got a confession to make - I'm engaged to somebody else"

engagement was off when she saw photographs of him embracing the Princess in a newspaper.

"Ms Fisher loved, trusted and believed in Mr Fayed. In return he took her love and gave her every indication that they were going to get married," the suit said. "In the end he betrayed her and has humiliated her in the eyes of her friends and family."

Ms Fisher is said to live in the exclusive seaford enclave of Malibu. She told a friend last night: "I can't believe he has done this to me. He has humiliated me."

Ms Fisher's lawyer is Gloria Allred, who hosts a popular

radio talk show and numbers among her clients Denise Brown, the sister of O.J. Simpson's murdered wife, Nicole, and the British heiress, Sita White.

This week Ms Allred won a court victory for Ms White when a Los Angeles judge declared Imran Khan, the former Pakistani cricketer, the legal father of her four-year-old daughter.

It will not be the first time that Ms Allred has taken on the Harrods empire. She was hired in May to represent Eileen Kadden, a 16-stone businesswoman from Los Angeles who claimed she was thrown out of the store for being "too fat".

The judgment against Mr Khan was made by default when the former cricketer, who is now married to Jemima Goldsmith, refused to take a blood test after denying the

claim. A similar suit has now been filed in London.

The claim about Mr Fayed's relationship with Ms Fisher came as further details emerged about the role played by Mohammed Al Fayed in the development of his son's friendship with the Princess.

According to a gossip columnist, Mr Fayed suggested to the Princess several months ago that she should consider marriage to his eldest son, Taki Theodoropoulos, writing in *The Spectator* magazine, said the Princess had told him about the suggestion "matter of factly" when they lunched at Kensington Palace in January.

Mr Theodoropoulos said he had telephoned the Princess earlier this week to ask if she would be announcing her engagement to Mr Fayed. The answer was, apparently, "No".

He wrote: "It took her a long time to get out of a loveless marriage and she's not about to jump into another. Diana has been alone too long and Dodi's family has taken her in, something that Windsor failed to do. But it doesn't mean they'll be walking down the aisle come September."

A spokesman for Mr Fayed said yesterday that the marriage suggestion was probably a joke.

"He does laugh and joke with the Princess. He certainly makes her laugh. It's quite possible he was having a light-hearted conversation with her."

Letters, page 17

Woman found in lake could be victim of 1960s murder

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG woman's body dressed in a "baby doll" nightgown was yesterday recovered from the bottom of Coniston Water, prompting an investigation into a murder that could go back 30 years.

The victim's remains, which had been wrapped in plastic and sacking before being weighted down, are believed to have been undiscovered on the bed of the Cumbrian lake since the 1960s. Four amateur divers found the body last Sunday and began a salvage operation on Wednesday evening, having mistaken the bundle for an outboard engine.

Only when they had managed to drag it to the surface did they realise that they had found a body.

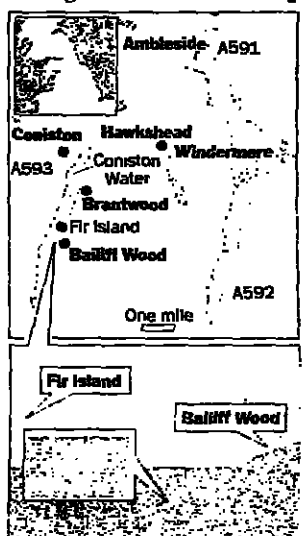
Detectives immediately began a nationwide search to help to identify the body. Last night they were sending details to every police force in Britain asking them to go through their records of missing persons back to the 1960s.

The body was recovered near Bailiff Wood, an isolated beauty spot on the eastern shore of Coniston Water. Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas, heading a team of 30 officers, said yesterday: "A preliminary examination by Edmund Trapp, a Home Office pathologist, showed that the body had been in the lake for a long time. He estimates it had been in the water for at least a year, probably more than five and possibly as many as 25 or 30 years."

"Given that the body was dressed in a 1960s shortie nightie in nylon, it could be that it has been in the water all that time. Although it was badly decomposed, it was in a better preserved condition than might be expected after

all that time. That was partly due to the very low temperatures of the water at the depth at which it was found and the fact that its wrappings had kept it watertight. However, because of its condition we may never know how the woman died."

The body is that of a well-built, white woman who was between 20 and 30 with short dark hair. She was between 5ft 1in and 5ft 4in tall. Supt Douglas said the body was clothed in a turquoise blue nightdress which bore the label "Halwin" and "Size W", adding: "There was nothing



else that might help us to identify the victim."

The nearby Wastwater was the scene of an identical incident in 1976, when Peter Hogg, an airline pilot from Cranleigh in Surrey, dumped the wrapped body of his wife Margaret. He was jailed for four years for manslaughter after admitting his wife died during a row over her infidelity.

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Boys triumph in record A-level passes

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BOYS took the top honours yesterday as the record A-level pass rate produced a clutch of outstanding results and a headache for university admissions tutors.

The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, recorded the best scores of any state school. The 108 boys averaged almost two A grades and one C each, pipping the King Edward VI College, in Stourbridge, to the top of the first A-level league table.

Half of the top ten places were filled by boys' grammar schools, with Chelmsford County High School the top girls' school. Croxall College

School, in Gwent, was the top comprehensive.

Phillip Croker, of Kingswood School, in Bath, boasted the best crop of results. The 18-year-old netted seven A grades and is heading for Magdalen College, Oxford, to read mathematics.

Phillip, a boarder from Weymouth, Dorset, achieved top marks in statistics, pure mathematics, mechanics, physics, chemistry, music and general studies. Before setting off for a night on the town, he said: "I am pleased but I did get what I expected. I don't do anything by half measures. My studying didn't stop me doing the

things I enjoy like playing music and sport."

A series of delighted teenagers celebrated six A grades. They included Catalin Ursul, a Romanian scholar who came to Cullford School, near Bury St Edmunds, two years ago.

The combination of high pass rates and anticipation of a scramble for higher education places in advance of next year's introduction of fees made it a hectic day for university admissions departments.

Top schools, page 7
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Heading for Oxford: Phillip Croker with seven A-grades

Cult fight over Cornish beach

Members of a German religious cult are in conflict with the National Trust over a remote Cornish spot which they believe is the perfect and only place to worship God.

The trouble is that Looe Bar, a National Trust-owned beauty spot between Helston and Penzance, is also the only known breeding site of the rare moth.

Page 3

Post for Clarke

Kenneth Clarke has won his first City directorship after leaving office. He will join the board of Foreign & Colonial, where he will be paid £18,000 a year for approximately 12 days a year.

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Hattersley says Mandelson speech on setting up unit to tackle social inequality is foolish. Jill Sherman reports



Hattersley: call for less public relations

Mr Hattersley also accused Mr Mandelson of failing to come up with any policies and criticised him for dismissing the idea of redistributing wealth as the main method of tackling poverty. "It (the speech) rather foolishly in my view talks of people who regard taking money from the rich and giving it to the poor as people who have an exclusive and limited view of

Questioned on this point, he said Mr Hattersley may not have paid his subscription or the collector may not have knocked on his door. "Please don't read anything significant into that." Later, Mr Mandelson's office conceded that Mr Hattersley was still a party member and gave no explanation.

Delivering the lecture, Mr Mandelson said that the emerging underclass was the biggest single challenge facing the Blair administra-

swers. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said that the unit should include those with lifelong experience of dealing with poverty. Higher taxation and higher benefits were still the key.

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

In 1986, with the property boom at its peak, the couple went to Lloyds Bank in Beaconsfield to consult about buying a property and renovating it, to make an estimated £8,000 profit. They had read the bank's *Starting your Own Business* pamphlet, which

They were due to appeal but have instead agreed the out-of-court settlement. They now hope to use their experience to move into business consultation. Mr Spindler said: "We have found out so much about the way businesses work that it seems only sensible to do something with what we've learnt."

A hospital spokesman confirmed both mother and baby were doing well. "There have been no problems whatsoever with Joseph and Ros. They are both healthy. But she is very tired and now needs some peace and quiet."



Rosalynde and Chris Lee with Joseph yesterday. Mother and baby are doing well.

BY ANDREW PIERCE
LITITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The pressure of the job meant that finer feelings and natural emotions became blunted. "Public recognition affords some

Mrs Cook, a consultant haematologist at St John's Hospital in Livingston, near Edinburgh, said in an interview last weekend that her job demands had meant she could not spend enough time in London with her husband.

Mrs Cook, in her letter which was written in response to a column about over-worked statesmen, held out the hope that the presence of 101 women Labour MPs might change the character of the House of Commons. "I believe women are less susceptible to the overdriven psyche. Probably by nature they are less aggressively competitive," she wrote.



Julia Verity and Richard Spindler: hit by property slump

Filming of a television dramatisation of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* is scheduled to begin at an isolated farmhouse in North Yorkshire next month, ending controversy over the choice of location. Purists were outraged earlier this year when it emerged that London Weekend Television was considering Devon or Dorset. The decision was welcomed by the Brontë Society.

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German invaders outflank police in battle for beach

By RUTH GLEDHILL
AND ROGER BOVYS



The invaders: cult members meeting on the beach yesterday. They have defied three police operations



Imran: blood test

Imran agrees to paternity test in Pakistan

By ADAM FRESCO

IMRAN KHAN said yesterday that he was prepared to take a blood test to prove that he was not the father of his former lover's child — as long as the test is in Pakistan.

Sita White has obtained a ruling in California that Mr Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain and now a politician, is the father of her five-year-old daughter, Tyrian. It was granted on a default basis when he did not appear for the hearing and failed to supply a blood sample.

Mr Khan, who is married to the late Sir James Goldsmith's daughter, Jeannine, with whom he has a 10-month-old son, said: "It is simply not possible for me to travel the world fighting court cases in every country. My work is in politics and with my hospital in Pakistan."

He added that, to end speculation and settle the matter, "I will of course be prepared to submit to a blood test in Pakistan and will fully stand by the decision of the competent Pakistani courts."

Ms White, whose father was the industrialist Lord White of Hull, claimed that she became pregnant after telling Mr Khan that she wanted to have his baby in 1991.

LANDINGS by a determined group of German cultists are being fought on the beaches and country lanes of Cornwall, to try to shift them from a remote spot which they believe is the perfect and only place to worship God.

The trouble is that Looe Bar, a National Trust-owned beauty spot between Helston and Penzance, is also the only known breeding site of the rare sandhill rust moth, and naturalists are concerned that the cult's presence is disrupting its lifestyle. The trust is accusing the cult of "an invasion".

Members of the obscure Horst Schaffranek Evangelists, founded in 1923, believe that God has directed them to Looe Bar. In recent weeks, 40 members have twice dropped anchor on the beach, and have twice been moved on by police. Even when evicted by officers from a special Tactical Aid Group, the cultists eventually outflank their opponents.

In their latest foray, the group travelled along narrow country lanes to avoid a series of obstacles positioned in their path by the police. The cultists filled in trenches, and pushed aside a large agricultural trailer blocking the way, to successfully re-establish themselves at their chosen place of worship.

Last night all attempts to persuade them to move on were met by Bible quotations and the response: "Do you have Jesus in your life?"

The cultists are mostly German or Belgian and travel in a convoy of 25 cars and vans. Police were last night trying to puzzle out why they picked Looe. One theory is that they were attracted by the connections with Arthurian legend.

Separated from the sea only by a narrow shingle beach is Looe Pool, the largest freshwater lake in Cornwall and one of the places, according to the legend, where Arthur's sword Excalibur was thrown, to be caught by the Lady of the Lake, or the King lay dying.

But according to German cult watcher Tomas Gandan, "this is unlikely. The 'body' is 'known' in Germany but it is

not considered powerful. This is the first time they have been known to extend their mission outside Germany, where they have a reputation for trying to recruit members at big Christian crusades.

"They are a small group of fundamentalist Christians," Herr Gandan said. They usually attach themselves to charismatic meetings and try to recruit people there.

"They could be in Cornwall for two reasons. Either they are having a communal holiday, or there is some kind of charismatic meeting somewhere in Cornwall and they want to try out some of their old tricks there." It emerged

last night that the cultists had already visited the home of some church leaders in Launceston, who are helping to organise a Good News Crusade next week in Tintagel.

"They told us their point of view," said one church leader, who asked not to be named. "We sent them on their way. Basically, they don't believe in leadership, they believe in freemasonry. Christianity, if they come to the Crusade, we have enough stewards to handle the situation."

Giles Clotworthy, spokesman for the National Trust, said: "It is very difficult to communicate with them, not just because of the language.

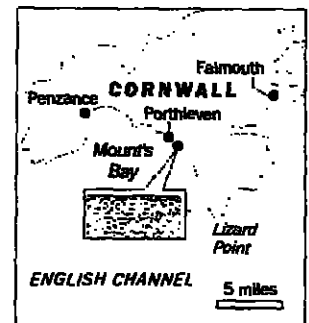
When you ask them anything, they just respond with 'Do you believe in Jesus?', which is quite a conversation stopper. They say that God has sent them to this place, and that they have a God-given right to be there."

"We thought we had taken sufficient action by digging holes and blocking the access with a trailer, but it seems we did not. We cannot allow unlawful trespass on this land. The Trust owns the beach for the benefit of the general public and not for just a few people. There are also some very unusual and rare plants in the area. The German Embassy is being kept up

to date with developments. This is the third invasion of this beach and they are proving amazingly persistent."

Sergeant John Trot, of the Cornwall Police, said: "They are all respectable, middle-class people, and they are all followers of Herr Schaffranek. They believe this beach is the ideal place to worship God."

He was speaking after one of the Germans, Lucy Muller, 67, appeared yesterday before magistrates in Truro, charged with assaulting a police officer. She and five other members of the sect who have also been arrested will appear before the court again this morning. There was a demon-



stration at the court yesterday, when sect members began reading from their Bibles and claiming justice was not being done. The cult members are thought to be returning to Germany this weekend.

Judge replaces magistrate in Caroline case

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE magistrate in charge of investigating the rape and murder of British teenager Caroline Dickinson during a school trip to Brittany was yesterday replaced by a leading French judge.

In his first move since taking over from the magistrate Gérard Zaig, Judge Renaud Van Ruymbeke ordered DNA tests to be carried out on the 250 males aged between 15 and 35 in the village of Pleine Fougères, where Caroline was murdered in July last year. Previous requests by her parents, John and Sue Dickinson, for DNA tests on local inhabitants had been refused by M Zaig.

Under French law, DNA testing may only be carried out with the consent of those involved. The teachers, coach driver and boys who were with Caroline have already been DNA-tested and cleared.

The move was welcomed by the Dickinsons, who have been critical of the lack of progress in the case and who were in the appeal court in Rennes yesterday to hear Judge Van Ruymbeke's decision.

Mr Dickinson said: "At least there is a new momentum in the inquiry. The circumstances and the investigation to date are going to be re-examined and possible new leads are going to be explored."

Caroline, 13, from Launceston in Cornwall, was raped and strangled on July 18 last year while sharing a dormitory with four other girls at a youth hostel. After 13 months of frustration over the failure of the investigation, Mr Dickinson expressed satisfaction at the appointment of Judge Van Ruymbeke: "My lawyer has told us about his reputation and we are honoured that our daughter's case is being dealt with by such a man."

Judge Van Ruymbeke is renowned for his integrity and vigilance in tracking down and solving cases. He first attracted publicity in 1992, when he took over an inquiry into Socialist corruption in western France.

The decision to drop M Zaig from the investigation came only weeks after the



Judge Van Ruymbeke: Known for his integrity

British Government stepped up diplomatic pressure on the French to review the lack of progress in the case. The Dickinsons had protested that the investigation had been hampered by undue secrecy and in February began an unsuccessful legal action to have M Zaig removed from the case, expressing a lack of confidence in his competence.

The first suspect arrested in the case, Patrice Padé, a 39-year-old drifter, was held by police for more than two weeks despite having an alibi and two DNA tests which proved his innocence. Repeated attempts by Mr Dickinson to see M Zaig were refused by the magistrate, who also banned police from talking to him. Moreover, M Zaig took a vacation during the first anniversary of their daughter's murder.

Girlfriend tells court of attack by soldiers

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU

A YOUNG Englishwoman told a court in Cyprus yesterday that a British soldier held her by the hair as other off-duty soldiers punched and kicked her boyfriend and another friend until both lay bloodied and unconscious. Claire Harbottle, 22, said she was told by the man restraining her: "Don't worry, it will be over in a minute."

The alleged assault outside a nightclub in the coastal resort of Ayia Napa was seen by crowd of onlookers but none intervened. Ms Harbottle, a nursery school nurse on holiday in Cyprus from her home in southeast London, said her boyfriend, Barry Ford, 23, and his friend, Shane Bell, who had tried to help, were left in a bad state.

Mr Ford, a quantity surveyor, needed 22 stitches to his face and head, and had a broken arm. Mr Bell, a car mechanic, has his jaw broken.

Four soldiers deny causing grievous bodily harm. A fifth is being tried separately. All are serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. The trial continues.

Aborigine's remains exhumed

Liverpool to return skull to its native land, reports Richard Ford

THE skull of Yagan, an Aboriginal warrior, was exhumed from its grave in a Liverpool cemetery last night after a delicate operation that took four hours.

A wooden box containing the skull was removed from a pauper's grave in the Everton cemetery and taken to Liverpool Museum 164 years after Yagan was shot by a bounty hunter in western Australia. The exhumation was the first step in a journey that will end with it being ceremonially buried in the Swan Valley, east of Perth. Specialist workers were

called in by Liverpool City Council after a sonar scan had located the box. They advised that it could be lifted without disturbing the graves of 22 stillborn children and babies who had died at birth, under which the skull had lain, and the Home Office gave permission for the exhumation.

Yagan's head was presented to the Liverpool Royal Institution in 1834 and then to the Liverpool Museum in 1894 where it was exhibited until a curator became concerned about its deterioration. The skull was smoked in an attempt to preserve it but it was



Yagan: shot dead by a bounty hunter in 1833

buried 30 years ago when it began to decompose.

The Government had rejected previous approaches to return Yagan's head because

under the Burial Act 1857, it needed the approval of all the babies' next of kin before the grave could be disturbed.

A spokesman for Liverpool council said that the skull would be handed over to the Australian High Commissioner. The exhumation took place before a delegation of seven Aboriginal elders arrived in Britain. Richard Wilkes, an Aboriginal elder, said the delegation ought to be in Liverpool. "We want to do the right thing by Yagan to allow his spirit to go into the Dream Time in a proper and religious way of the Noongar people," he said.

Yagan was a feared warrior and featured prominently in clashes with white settlers during the 1830s.

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Family cling to hope for US flood victim

Canyon hikers were within 100ft of safety, reports Giles Whittell

THE family of a British woman feared dead after a flash flood swept through a canyon in Arizona were last night waiting anxiously for news from rescue crews.

Charlotte Warrington, 24, a nursery nurse from Claverdon in Warwickshire, was among a group of 12 hikers walking in the narrow Lower Antelope Canyon, near Lake Powell in Arizona, when they were hit by a freak flood.

The American tour guide escaped and rescuers recovered the body of a French woman. Arizona police said that hopes were fading of finding the missing hikers alive.

Randy Servis, of the Coconino County sheriff's department, said: "There is a likelihood that the hikers will be so covered in sediment that search dogs will be unable to locate them. There is also a

chance that the group could have been washed away completely into Lake Powell which drops to 400ft deep in places."

Ms Warrington's mother, Gillian, said that she and her husband, Brian, were refusing to give up hope that their daughter would be found alive. "We know that the search will be resumed at 11am and we are sitting by the phone waiting for news," she said.

"Charlotte loves the outdoor life and this is the third time she had visited America. She has gone on a similar trip on her own in the past and enjoyed it so thoroughly that she thought she would go again this year. She is very much into outdoor pursuits. She is just so full of life — a real sweetie."

The hike, through an area that has been used as locations in *Planet of the Apes*, *The Outlaw Josie Wales* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, was organised by TrekAmerica, a British-based company. The US National Weather Service had issued a severe storm warning two hours before the flash flood struck, but the spot where the hikers were swept away had only a trace of rain. However, local companies had called off expeditions because of the



Charlotte Warrington: swept away by flood

weather. The searchers include members of the Navajo tribe, native to the area.

The one known survivor of the flood was yesterday struggling to come to terms with his escape. "As they were making their way out of the canyon he heard a loud roar and he knew exactly what it was," Sergeant David Ramos said after interviewing the guide, Francisco Quintana. "They were within 100ft of getting out."

Sergeant Ramos said Mr Quintana "tried to wedge his companions between some rocks higher up the canyon wall. Then he saw two other guys float past. After that, Quintana and the others held on for as long as they could. Eventually they all let go."

The guide was swept a quarter of a mile down the canyon in seconds but managed to grab on to some branches and heave himself out of the water. He was found stripped naked by the water, badly bruised and mumbling incoherently. Silt from the floodwater had filled his eyes so he could barely open them.



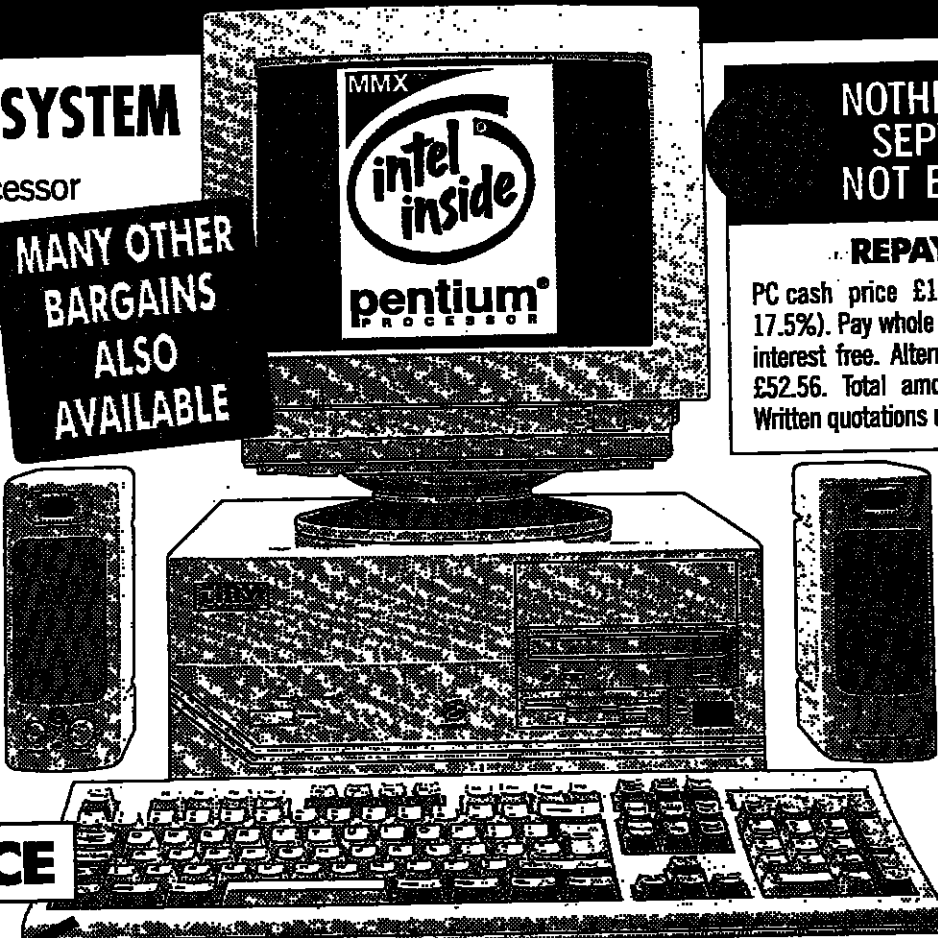
Camerasmen setting up at the entrance to Antelope Canyon, which in places is 80ft deep but only 2ft wide

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Worn-out warships must limp on to 2002

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO of Britain's most famous warships, the assault vessels *HMS Intrepid* and *HMS Fearless*, which played key roles in the Falklands conflict and the Gulf War, have effectively failed their MoTs.

The 30-year-old *Intrepid* has just returned from an eight-month tour of duty in the Far East and is undergoing repairs at Portsmouth. It is so badly corroded that there are fears it may not be able to return to sea. The *Fearless*, its 32-year-old sister ship, depends on spare parts from the *Intrepid* to keep it afloat and is also in a poor state of repair. The ships' condition, highlighted today in a National Audit Office report, raises a question mark over Britain's ability to launch a Falklands-style invasion.

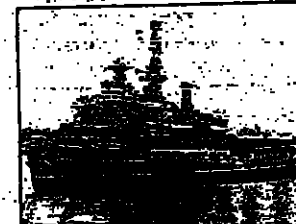
The two steam-driven ships led the land assault at San Carlos Water in the Falkland Islands. They steamed in under enemy fire to help sailors on the stricken *Sir Galahad* at Bluff Cove.

They were to have been taken out of service in December 1994, but will now remain on active duty until October 2002, when replacements are due. The extra manpower required to run the older vessels — some 550 compared with 325 for their replacements — accounts for half the £24 million running costs.

"The material state of *HMS Intrepid* is now giving the department [MoD] cause for concern as it is proving difficult to sustain the declared readiness," the report states. "Routine structural surveys of the ship have revealed deterior-



HMS Intrepid



HMS Fearless

ration of the hull in unsuspected areas. In addition, spares are taken from *HMS Intrepid* to keep *HMS Fearless* fully operational. There is, therefore, a significant risk that the ship, or even both, might not be available if both were required."

The NAO argues that the delay in the replacement of the ships is having a serious detrimental effect on Britain's military capability. "With renewed emphasis on rapid deployment forces... a modern and efficient amphibious capability has become a prerequisite for the Joint Rapid Deployment Force."

The NAO report also takes the Ministry of Defence to task over 20 of its 25 major procurement projects running behind schedule. "Budgetary constraints meant that the average delay to the end of the 1996 financial year was 40 months, compared with 35 the year before."

Savile plans a racing return

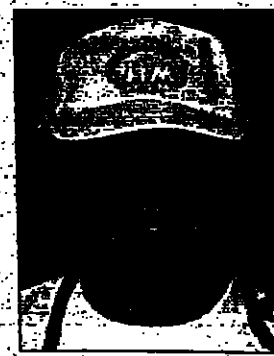
BY PAUL WILKINSON

SIR JIMMY SAVILE plans to run a marathon only seven weeks after a quadruple heart bypass operation. The 71-year-old was speaking as he left Killingsbeck Hospital in Leeds, six days after surgery, carried out over the three-hour operation.

Wearing blue sunglasses, outlandish shorts and a T-shirt emblazoned with the logo "Killingsbeck Fixed It for Jim", he told reporters that he intended to start jogging straight away. "My next marathon will probably be in Glasgow in six weeks' time. How do I feel? With my left hand. Terrific."

"I found out I was not well 27 years ago, but I was just waiting for the right team. My condition is nothing to do with paragliding or wind surfing or cigar-smoking. It was inherited."

Kevin Waterson, who



Sir Jimmy: recovering after heart bypass

led the operation, said: "Jimmy has been an exceptional patient. He has recovered quicker than most people. From day one he pushed himself. We had to ask him to moderate it a bit. So far as the marathon is concerned, I would advise Jimmy to take it easy."

Before he left, Sir Jimmy handed nurses a cheque for £500 to pay for a party for all the staff.

سنة ١٤١٧

Diary of a duchess on Tuscan holiday

From meditations on time to painting by numbers, and from pondering the solitude of exile to ways of watching her weight, a 'wild redhead' charts her days as an Englishwoman abroad

TIME. The very essence of it can slip by without so much as a moment of respect. On Monday, 4 August I left a magical Tuscan farmhouse high on a hill and returned to Wentworth to attend the "Duchess of York's Golf Tournament" — fast becoming an annual event — for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. MND is the most debilitating, devastating, muscle-wasting disease, which waits for no man. (Stephen Hawking is one of the longest sufferers.) Andrew — steadfastly loyal to me and his Scottish Mutual team — started his victorious round dead on time, having already made sure that he had wished his grandmother a happy birthday in the morning. Later, in the evening, all 25 teams celebrated their rounds — particularly Andrew, as his team were the winners by ten points. The association received £45,000. I have always promised to keep shouting on behalf of the sufferers of MND, to raise awareness of the need to find a cure. After spending a week with one of my guests who has Parkinson's disease, I am now hell-bent on seeing how or if I can help that cause too. To see a man with such a golden spirit willing his tired body forward is, without question, an inspiration never to give up the fight for every moment of life.

Tuesday. Having fitted in a shoot for Weightwatchers, we all returned to Italy in the evening to prepare for Beatrice's birthday on 8 August. An orchestra of crickets heralded our return to harmony. Andrew and I believe so much in this new Americanism of co-

SPECTATOR

parenting, and there is no question that we have more fun than the children, as inevitably I am left to finish the latest "paint-by-numbers" and Papa is left balancing dangerously on one of the inflatable floats on the swimming-pool — the blue water is certainly not in sight as "Dino" floats after "Pongo" et al.

The red, earthy, laterize soil was kicked up as Andrew, Beatrice and Eugenie headed off into the distant Tuscan hills on their way to join HMV Britannia as she sailed around the Western Isles. I was agonisingly aware of the heartache I felt when they left. It reminded me of the same feeling I had when my mother used to leave for Argentina. I always enjoyed the magic of my stay on the yacht, the stillness of the calm nights, the gentle swaying in the Scottish waters. I was able to relive my experience when I explained to my children how their days would be spent — with a little extra help thrown in from Disney's *The Lion King*, when Simba's father tells him to always look up to the stars when in need of comfort and solace.

6 Having to resist that Italian food will drive me crazy. I will have to get into a straitjacket?

The Italian locals have opened all their doors and their hospitality has been endless — my new friends, Sybilla and Gaddo della Gherardesca, are cooing in their kindness to make my stay unique. I often wonder if the English would be quite so generous back in Blighty. Pine trees: nuts. Fig trees: figs (how Alan Bates ate



The Duke and Duchess of York with the Princesses Beatrice, left, and Eugenie at the charity golf tournament

them in *Women in Love*). Olive trees: olives and oils. Sunflowers: more oils. Grapes: my favourite Cervaro. Pasta: spaghetti, tagliolini, linguine. Meats: Parma ham. With every sight, I see food. I can almost hear food. I want to spade the whole lot through my mouth at Mach 2. Basta! How can I then launch my Weightwatcher 1, 2, 3 on 1 September? I am supposed to be a paradigm of a "weight-losser" — perhaps the only thing I am allowed to add to being a

loser. It will drive me crazy having to resist all that Italian food. I will have to get into a straitjacket at night so that I won't be able to raid the obese (my least favourite adjective) fridge. But a brilliant idea comes to mind from reading *Hello!* I see the Queen of Sweden wearing a T-shirt with a supermodel figure in a bikini printed on it — maybe Weightwatchers won't notice if I put one on at the 'lunch'.

To return to my guest with Parkinson's disease, which is very close to MND. Perhaps not everyone is like Stephen Hawking, but they all deserve our fight for a cure — not to mention humour. My guest was certainly not diminished in this when he was introduced to a rather upper-class Englishman who had come to stay with some aristocratic Italians. The Englishman was asked where he lived and he let slip "4,000 acres under plough", and then he ploughed on and on. No longer able to contain his

irritation, my guest asserted, "So you are a bit of a prat then", but only managed to stutter it through. "Oh yes," the Englishman replied with mild satisfaction, "I am a member of Pratt's."

After my arrival in Tuscany, I received many invitations to dinner from the local aristos. It is a refreshing emotion to feel wanted and I accepted everything recklessly. Then after the endless dinners, during which I met countless counts and contesse and

masses of marchesi and marchese. I began to suspect that they did not necessarily embrace me, but were just curious about this wild redhead. I hope that I satisfied their curiosity.

I like to paint and paint well, but somehow don't get it quite right. My pines and cypresses just don't look quite like pines and cypresses. I imagine I can cheat with all the paint-by-numbers that I have brought out for my children. Isn't it wonderful to see good results? Across the sea, I can just manage to make out the island of Elba which makes me think about being in exile. It is terrible to be in exile. I only want to read about all those who come out of exile in triumph, but not even Napoleon did, so perhaps I should not be so excited. I pine for my darling children who are on the yacht, and those unwelcome thoughts of being in exile return.

I have just been invited to the Palio this Saturday. I am very excited at the thought of seeing Siena and some supreme horsemanship. I adore horses and sometimes I feel that they are my best friends as they seem to understand me. How I wish they could talk. They would not be heard at the Palio with all the crowds and excitement. It will be a perfect occasion to scream without drawing attention to oneself.

I suddenly realise that the local police have been concerned for my well-being. They have been very hospitable and I wish I knew who to thank in Italy for their support. Isn't it strange that when the police used to surround me all the time, I didn't miss them, but now having lost them for some time, I rather like them being around. How ungrateful we sometimes are — and how vain.

I have two more weeks in Tuscany and am determined to learn about Florence. It is daunting that there is so much to learn, and even more daunting that I know so little — I will try to swoot up. I am leaving through Dante and already have found it satisfying to discover that Beatrice, my first daughter's name, is the loved one. I can now be pretentious and call out her name with an Italian accent. More research is needed for Eugenie now.



Budgie: earlier try

It is so bad that it must be real

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN A previous bid for literary stardom, the Duchess of York was accused of wholesale plagiarism over her *Budgie The Little Helicopter* books.

The duchess's office swore yesterday that her latest oeuvre was genuinely her own work, hammered out on a laptop computer during her sojourn in Tuscany. They are probably right. There is no known literary scam from which she could have mined such artless endeavour.

The duchess's guest appearance as this week's diarist in *The Spectator* is so exonerating that it must be real. In other recent literary work, she has the good sense to employ a professional ghostwriter who translates her thoughts into something approaching a readable screed. Left to herself, she is embarrassing.

The explanation seems simple. If her diary is at all an accurate record of her week's vacation, she patently has no time left in which to sit down and give her literary effort more than three minutes' thought. The duchess is plainly in need of a holiday.

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Dana hopes Irish will hear plea for harmony

Audrey Magee on the singer's homecoming to launch her presidential campaign

DANA, the former Eurovision Song Contest winner, flew into Dublin from the Bible belt of Alabama determined to bring harmony to the discordant politics of the country of which she hopes to become President.

The 45-year-old singer — who has spent only 18 months of her life in the Republic — said she had a vision of unity: "It seems at this moment that the country is kind of polarised to Left and Right, and one sees the other as a threat. We need to go forward with a presidency people can trust."

Originally from Londonderry, Dana, who hosts a television chat show in Alabama on the cable channel Mother Angelica, wants to restore Christian family values. Otherwise, she says, Ireland will become another America, with divorce and abortion being everyday events and God being less important than the Government.

The singer — real name Rosemary Brown — still speaks with the small gentle voice that brought her fame when she won the Eurovision contest in 1970 with *All Kinds of Everything*. But her ideals have grown into Roman Catholic fundamentalism delivered with zeal and a slight Ameri-



Mary Robinson, who stands down as President, and Albert Reynolds, who has announced his intention to run for office

can accent. She regularly sings for the Pope and has earned millions of pounds from the sale of at least 30 albums of religious, gospel, pop and folk songs. She is a frequent speaker at anti-abortion rallies in the United States.

A delegation headed by the Christian Community Alliance had approached Dana in June to stand for election on October 30 as successor to Mary Robinson. At first she refused, but agreed to go

forward after hundreds of phone calls and letters of support.

She rejects the charge of being a puppet of the Catholic Right as it tries to regain a foothold in Irish politics. "I cannot stand up or go forward on somebody else's dream or vision. I have to make whatever I do in life my own."

Dana, who is mother to four children, stresses that she will be a moral guide to the nation and will not interfere in politics. However,

if elected, she would reject as "unconstitutional" legislation on abortion, possibly the most contentious issue in Irish politics.

Legislation allowing for abortion if the life of the mother is at risk is coming before the Government shortly. Dana said that, as President, she would not sign it as a newspaper opinion poll found that 78 per cent of those questioned wanted another referendum on it.

She needs the support of four local authorities or 20 members of the Irish Parliament or Senate if she is to run for office. But the backing appears unlikely.

Even the Catholic Church was distancing itself yesterday from Dana's campaign, which a senior official described as "eccentric". She had intended to lobby for support at the Knock shrine in Co Mayo today but was refused permission by Monsignor Dominic Greely, the parish priest, who did not want it to be used as a political platform.

The only firm candidate to date is Albert Reynolds, the former Prime Minister, although John Hume, the SDLP leader, is also considering standing. Dana said she would reconsider her candidature if Mr Hume stood.



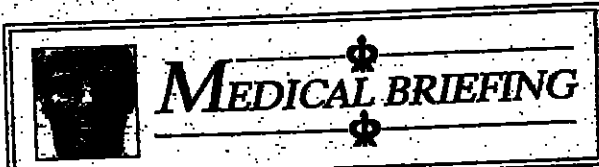
Dana, who arrived in Dublin yesterday, said Ireland was polarised between Left and Right

Birmingham Group wins Eurovision Song Contest

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Vaccines are vital, even on short trips



Dr Thomas Stuttard

TOURISTS heading abroad for their summer holidays should beware the continuing dangers of typhoid, polio and hepatitis, even if they are going no further than continental Europe. Doctors of my generation are inclined to offer typhoid injections for anyone of 'toddler' age upwards who so much as crosses the Channel.

More than 80 per cent of the hundred or so cases of typhoid which are diagnosed in the United Kingdom each year are known to have been caught overseas, in many cases from the Mediterranean. Overseas visitors should also be up to date with their polio immunisation, a disease also spread by sewage. Polio immunisation is a trouble-free experience; its protection is obtained by a drop of the vaccine on a lump of sugar.

Typhoid is spread by the ingestion of human faeces. Even the tiny amounts left on an unwashed, or inadequately washed, hand of a waiter or cook or beneath a long fingernail may be enough to infect somebody else.

Typhoid vaccinations are usually recommended for all travellers over the age of one who are visiting India, and other parts of Asia, Africa, central South America, or for those who intend to visit those countries where war or poverty may have undermined the standards of hygiene.

In my practice we have for many years counselled vaccination against hepatitis A for travellers overseas, as an attack can make someone feel unwell for months and it is so easily avoided. Hepatitis B is more difficult to catch, but we have routinely suggested that patients going to live abroad, particularly in the Far East or Africa, should be protected. Recently an injection of Twinrix has been introduced which gives protection against hepatitis A and B.

Injections against diphtheria and tetanus must also be up to date. There is dispute over the value of cholera vaccinations as they give limited protection.

Travellers to malarial zones need to take anti-malarials, whatever the advice of blast old empire-builders. No anti-malarial is completely effective even when taken, as it should be, before the patient leaves and for five weeks after they are back home, and measures against the mosquito must also be taken.

It is often advisable that people working abroad should be protected against rabies, and these injections are no longer horrendously unpleasant. In many parts of the world it is worthwhile having injections against meningitis A and C.

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High Interest Deposit Account		Annual Rates	
Amount	From 1st July	From 1st July	From 1st July
£2,000 +	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
£5,000 +	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%
£10,000 +	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
£25,000 +	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%
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Conquering disease as an enemy of Empire

How plagues of cholera and a determined royal doctor uncovered the link between death and dirty water

Victoria's ascent to the throne was to herald an astonishing series of social changes in Britain, with the Government at last taking a measure of responsibility for individual welfare.

The maintenance of public health in a rapidly expanding industrial society was now among the highest priorities on an agenda for progress: a healthy workforce was a productive workforce. Of course, there were altruistic reasons for preventing the spread of disease too — the Victorian obsession with air, light and cleanliness, as one historian has put it. Life could still be short and brutish, but contagion and high infant mortality rates were no longer regarded as inevitable.

Disease and early death could be conquered like any other enemy of Empire.

However, as the trade routes from India opened in earnest, so the big cities were to find themselves open to a plague as terrifying as the Black Death. Cholera had struck before Victoria's reign, killing 6,000 people in October 1831, but a subsequent outbreak in 1849 was met not with resignation but resistance. The epidemic cut down 14,000. Later plagues were to kill a further 16,000 people before Dr John Snow, Victoria's own obstetrician, won the first decisive victory against the disease. He recognised

a link between the mingling of human waste with drinking water. He recognised too the need for an effective sewerage system.

Snow's views on prevention in the absence of cure met with royal approval. The disease was universally dreaded, and in the early years of Victoria's reign there was a 50 per cent mortality rate. Snow's rivals in the medical establishment believed that cholera was caused by an aerial poison from the putrefaction of rotting bodies or old vegetables. With the backing of his Queen, he argued that it was water-borne, pointing out that the highest casualty rate was from those who

used a pump at Broad Street, Soho. He persuaded the authorities to chain the handle of the pump, and the incidence of cholera in the area dropped overnight.

During the third and last epidemic before the London sewers were built, Snow found that the worst pockets of contagion were Southwark and Vauxhall. Both areas obtained water from a section of the Thames contaminated by sewage from Baltic merchant ships and from the City. His findings brought great improvements to sanitation and water supplies.

Although by 1861 there were 80 hospitals in London, with similar

expansion outside the capital, little provision had been made for the poor, apart from the sick wards in the workhouse. In 1867, as the nation's health became a higher priority, a public hospital system was established.

Generally, demographic growth and economic success came at the cost of profound damage to the environment. Concern over high concentrations of smoke can be traced back to the 13th century, but by Victorian times those living in the big cities were choking on pollution.

The term "smog" was coined in the 1840s to describe the lethal

mixture of smoke and fog. The Smoke Abatement Acts (1853-56) and the Sanitation Act (1886) were serious and badly needed attempts to curb emissions. Yet the smog kept London in its grip for almost another century. In Victorian Britain, the clout of industry far outweighed the public good.

The well-off, as ever, could afford their escape. Pollution posed no health risk for those able to flee the big cities and the year-round grime and fog for "the cure". Taking the waters at Bath or Buxton, high in the Peak District, became the social imperative for the well-heeled Victorian invalid or hypochondriac.

Buxton spa, in particular, offered an extraordinary range of treatments. The "cold hose douche" — forerunner to colonic irrigation — was a particular favourite among the constipated. The "liver pack" — a large block of ice on the stomach — proved popular too. There were separate pools for men and women, individual centrally heated changing rooms, carpeted corridors, maids and valets dancing attendance, and cooling rooms in which to sit and pen postcards home. Much of the baths has been preserved, including the original pale green Minton tiling of the corridors. The atmosphere is still in keeping with the Victorian age, although a world away from the workhouse.

MICHAEL POWELL

Underground feat that swept away London health hazard

Bill Frost reports on the enormous strides in public health made by Victorian physicians and engineers

In an age of engineering adventure, the design and construction of the London sewers must rank among the boldest. Despite the passage of time, they have not crumbled into disrepair and remain in good condition to this day, although investment is needed to keep them up to scratch.

The system was the work of Sir Joseph Bazalgette, creator of the Victoria, Albert and Chelsea embankments, new bridges at Putney and Battersea, and the Woolwich steam ferry. However, his most elaborate commission, 83 miles of intercepting sewers, transformed the Thames into one of the cleanest metropolitan rivers in Europe. Waterborne diseases, which historically had been the scourge of the capital, were banished.

By 1800, London's popula-



tion had topped one million. Cesspits installed after the Great Fire of 1666 often overflowed. In 1815, the Government allowed the pits to be linked to the primitive sewer system, but that proved of no great benefit to public health. Early in the Victorian age, new sewers were built by property developers across London, but to low standards. The system was random and uncoordinated, with the

Thames and its tributaries the only major disposal routes. By 1850 the river was severely polluted and foul-smelling. At the same time cholera and yellow fever were linked for the first time to inadequate sewage disposal and polluted water. Cesspools harboured disease, while flushing lavatories, which were introduced in 1810, added to the pollution of the Thames. Urban cesspools were banned in 1848 and, as a consequence, still greater amounts of waste were directed into the river.

The Government was compelled to take action, creating the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers. Bazalgette was appointed as the commission's chief engineer, planning a grand design of sewers, pumping stations and storage tanks. London's sewage was to be integrated into a new network with treatment and disposal carried out downstream, east of the city.

Costings were modest but the fear of financial problems and bickering among consultants working on the project held back progress. It was only in 1856, when the stench from the river forced Parliament to rise, that the Government pressed ahead with Bazalgette's scheme.

Major cross-city interception sewers were built. Much larger than their predecessors, they cut across existing sewers which were primarily of north-south flow. They were built at three levels and used gravity from west to east, to remove sewage from the existing network. By the time the system was completed in 1875, a network of drains serving every street and ultimately every building was being es-



London's sewers — this one was beneath Fleet Street — were completed in 1875 but were so well built that they are in good condition today



Opening the main drainage works at Crossness

tablished as the built-up area expanded.

Today Bazalgette's achievement is mostly out of sight and, sadly, out of mind. However, an impressive example of his work can be seen on open days at the Crossness pumping station in Abbey Wood, South London. Opened in

April 1865 by the the Prince of Wales, the pumping station is a superb example of Bazalgette's vision and skill. The Italianate building holds four beam engines by James Watt & Sons. With a beam over 40ft long and weighing 47 tons, each engine has a lifting capacity of 125 tons per

minute. Bazalgette named them Victoria, Prince Consort, Alexandra and Albert Edward. Effluent from the Southern Outfall Sewer was lifted by the engines into a lofty, covered reservoir and held until after high tide so that, on discharge, the tide would carry it out to sea.

Decommissioned in 1953, the pumping station is now a Grade I listed building.

Regular open days at Crossness are under consideration. In the meantime, for details of occasional open days, contact the Crossness Engines Trust, 0181-303 6723

NEXT

The world of Victorian art and an unbroken design tradition from William Morris to Habitat and Liberty

The guiding light for today's nurses

The lady with the lamp has a deservedly shining reputation for far more than her caring image, says Damian Whitworth

Florence Nightingale was a legend in her own lifetime. But famous though she was in the two years she spent in the Crimea, she did more than tend to ailing soldiers. The lamp she lit showed up the medical failings of a whole age and is still a light today.

Nowhere is her position as the grandmother of modern nursing better illuminated than in a corner of the car park at St Thomas' Hospital in London. In the basement of the building that held the original Nightingale training school for nurses is the Florence Nightingale Museum, a small but impressively organised display.

Born into a wealthy family, Nightingale was well educated and even better connected. She spurned marriage in favour of answering her calling to be a nurse. After study and practical work on the Continent and in London, in 1854 she was invited by her friend, Sidney Her-

bert, Secretary of War, to go to the Crimea in charge of the first batch of female nurses to join British troops at the front. William Howard Russell, *The Times's* special correspondent, had reported on the poor facilities for caring for the wounded and Nightingale distributed the money from a fund set up by this newspaper to improve conditions.

The popular image of her as the lady with the lamp — moving from one prostrate soldier to the next through the night — owed much to contemporary reports and artists. She rapidly became such a heroine at home among a populace demoralised by the bad news of the war that she was featured in countless cheap portraits and figurines. A number of racehorses were

named after her. But Alex Attewell, curator of the museum, emphasises that she was less a ministering angel than a brilliant administrator.

Nightingale shook up a culture where bungling was epidemic. On one occasion a shipment of right-footed boots had arrived; the left feet then sank on a separate boat. Nightingale did not know of germs (and later didn't believe in them) but understood the need for good sanitation and championed the importance of avoiding "noxious airs", reorganising the hospital wards so that there was space between beds and as much light and air as little grime as possible.

"The toughest job will be needed at the washing tub," she told her nurses. She began to compile statistics

showing that more men were dying of disease from the appalling conditions than were killed in battle.

One of the most amusing documents in the museum is her list of nurses which shows what a formidable disciplinarian she was. Against some names she has written: "Sent home for misconduct and intoxication."

Nightingale's work really started on her return from the Crimea, as she brought her reforming zeal to a wider society. She went to see Queen Victoria to talk about her work and used her clout and contacts to have a royal commission set up on the health of the Army. She then shifted her focus to India. She never visited the jewel of the Empire but collated statistics about

disease, firstly among the forces and then the population in general, to influence the way the colony's health system was run.

At home she designed hospitals, using her experience from the Crimea, with wards full of windows and space. Some of these wards still survive.

Florence Nightingale died aged 90, having seen the first ten years of this century. She was to continue to influence rather more of it. "Her true legacy has been oversimplified," says Mr Attewell. "She was so advanced in her thinking that she effected great changes that are still being felt today."

The Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW. Tel 0171-620 0374. Open Tues-Sun and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10-5, last admission 4pm. Adults £2.50. Children/students/OAPs/disabled £1.50. Family ticket £5



Florence Nightingale at Scutari: lingering influence

O.T.T.



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Cosmonauts return to earthly trials

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TWO luckless Russian cosmonauts ended one of the toughest missions mounted in space yesterday when they returned to Earth after six months of constant mishaps on the ageing space station Mir.

Looking tired but happy, Vasili Tsibliyev, the commander, and Aleksandr Lazutkin, the flight engineer, said they were "happy to be back on Earth" after their Soyuz capsule touched down in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Debriefing sessions over the next few days will try to establish reasons for the series of mishaps that plagued the trip. If human error is found to be a reason, the cosmonauts could be penalised by the space agency. Under the terms of their contract, they should get more than £11,500 each for their 185-day mission and could double that with bonuses for space walks and other complex operations. Two years ago two cosmonauts were fined for refusing to go on a space walk and had to go to court to get the money.

A Nasa spokesman said its astronauts were paid flat sala-

ries and did not get bonuses or lose money for errors.

Yesterday the cosmonauts underwent medical examinations. A cardiac team was on standby to treat Mr Tsibliyev, who developed a stress-related heart condition last month.

Further tests will be conducted over the next few days

“Tsibliyev’s bosses should call it even and give him a hero’s welcome”

as the cosmonauts have been living in weightless conditions, which normally cause extensive muscle wastage, since February.

The cosmonauts were also expected to indulge in luxuries forbidden in space, in particular a good bottle of claret, a hot shower — their first in six

months — and fresh food. They will be allowed home in about ten days.

However, the welcoming may begin to turn sour as early as tomorrow when they are scheduled to meet Russian journalists, who are expected to concentrate on the allegations of human error.

The mission must rank as one of the most gruelling in history. Soon after their arrival in February, Mir suffered the worst fire in space history and from then on hardly a week went by without a major setback: the cooling system leaked toxic chemicals into the station, the air-generating machines broke down, the carbon dioxide removal system stopped working and the computer malfunctioned repeatedly.

The worst incident occurred on June 25 when a Progress supply ship crashed into one of Mir’s modules during a manual docking procedure executed by Mr Tsibliyev. The collision punctured the Spektr module, which is now sealed off from Mir and has led to the loss of half of the orbiter’s



Vasili Tsibliyev, left, and Aleksandr Lazutkin, sit on the ground in Kazakhstan after the stressful six-month trip

electrical power. Following that, a crew member accidentally disconnected a vital cable which left the orbiter disorientated for a day.

Mr Tsibliyev has come under intense criticism from space officials, the press and indirectly from President Yeltsin. “It was not technical failure,” the Russian leader said during a visit to the space headquarters last week. “Most probably it was the crew — the human factor.”

The crash, which doctors believe triggered his subsequent heart condition, led to the decision by Mission Control to send up a relief crew last week which will attempt to repair the Spektr module in a series of extremely dangerous space walks.

Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, President Yeltsin’s special adviser on space, insisted yesterday that a thorough investigation would be conducted before any blame was

apportioned and insisted that the authorities were not “looking for a scapegoat”.

However, even with the best intentions the row threatens to turn into a major debate. Some prominent members of the space agency clearly want Mr Tsibliyev to be punished, for allegedly miscalculating the weight of the craft involved in June’s collision. But the crew’s supporters argue that the authorities are simply trying to shift the blame for

continuing to run an ageing and potentially lethal space station, which should have been retired years ago.

“If Tsibliyev broke the Russian Space Agency’s space station, he also helped keep the dingy, orbital battlewagon going six years past its intended expiry date, in conditions of terrifying uncertainty,” said a leading article in yesterday’s *Moscow Times*. “His bosses should call it even and give him a hero’s welcome.”

Dictionary of Strine tells how not to be a drongo

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

PEOPLE moving to Australia who do not speak English could soon find themselves sounding rather more like the locals than perhaps they would wish, thanks to the publication yesterday of the first *Australian Learner Dictionary*.

The book aims to teach new arrivals everything from how to order cheese and veggie from a milk bar, to when to wear a cossie and when not to call someone a drongo. It also aims to give them some insight into the Australian way of life, with funnel webs, panel vans and bottle shops all making an appearance.

Professor Chris Candlin, Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University, Sydney, and one of the book’s editors, says he hopes it will promote the idea of Australian English as a distinct language and counteract the growing prevalence of American words in Australia.

“We’re trying to help people understand the kinds of language they read and hear and see in Australia. Australia in my view has not at all exploited its key place as an English-speaking country which is not British or American, when a lot of countries are looking for another voice.”

“Australia is a very interesting society from a language point of view, and hopefully this will ease the process of migrants coming to live here.”

Launching the book in Sydney yesterday, Philip Ruddock, the Immigration Minister, said: “Learning English is one of the most important tasks facing many migrants. Research shows that new migrants settle more quickly when they have a reasonable command of English.”

The dictionary also aims to give migrants an insight into Australian culture, with descriptions of life and tips on when to use certain words. “For example, it points out, ‘lots of people use the words ‘love’ or ‘dear’ if they don’t know what other. It’s meant to be friendly, but it may offend some people, so be careful.”

Israeli border police jailed for beating Palestinians

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM



Ben Abu: “degraded the police uniform”

AS A court sentenced two Israeli border policemen yesterday to eight months in jail for beating and humiliating six Palestinians at a military checkpoint, more evidence emerged of similar assaults.

Tashi Shamaya, 19, and David Ben Abu, 20, were given additional 12-month suspended sentences.

The assaults were filmed by an amateur Palestinian cameraman last October. The videotape, showing the two policemen kicking some of the Palestinians in the stomach and forcing others to do push-ups, was broadcast round the world and was used as evidence in the trial.

Shamaya and Ben Abu were charged with aggravated assault and

abuse of authority for their treatment of the Palestinians, who had been caught entering Israel without permits.

The Jerusalem court magistrate said the two policemen had “degraded the border police uniform” and had to receive a punishment that would deter other members of the force. Relatives of the accused reacted angrily and one woman was evicted for calling the magistrate a “leftist”.

Only hours before their sentencing, Israel television interviewed two Palestinians from the Bethlehem area. Lying in their hospital beds, the men showed wounds they said had been inflicted on them by Israeli border policemen on Tuesday. The Palestinians, aged 19 and 27, said they were caught entering Jerusalem

illegally and were taken by force to a remote area. After serious beatings, one of the men claimed he was tied to a police vehicle and dragged behind it.

Yisraeli Sadan, the border police commander, said last night an investigation had begun before the Israel television report, but the identities of the police involved had still not been determined. He said it was not certain whether his personnel had been involved or not.

The latest case had been uncovered by the Israeli human rights group, B’salem, which issued a report entitled *Border Police Brutality Continues*. The report lists 15 cases of beating, degradation and serious abuse of Palestinians by Israeli security force personnel over the past three months. At least 12 of

these cases involved border police officers.

“In spite of the condemnations of Israeli officials following past incidents and the pledges to eradicate the phenomenon, nothing has been done to change the behaviour of the security forces. Beatings, abuse and degradation of Palestinians by Israeli security force personnel remain a frequent, almost routine occurrence,” the organisation said.

The director of the group, Eitan Feiner, said yesterday’s court decision was “unique” because in the past similar offenders had escaped sentencing. He put this down to the fact that the beatings were captured on videotape.

The court decision was handed down as relations between Israel and the Palestinians remained tense

despite the recent visit by Dennis Ross, the US special envoy to the Middle East.

Both Israel and the Palestinians claim Mr Ross made limited progress in restoring security co-operation and are encouraging a visit by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. But it is not certain that Ms Albright is ready to make the trip while the climate on the ground remains volatile.

Israel yesterday began easing some sanctions imposed on Palestinians after the recent suicide bombing in Jerusalem, allowing them to travel out of two cities in the West Bank. But Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, said the remaining restrictions were “harassing” and must be lifted to avoid another explosion of violence.

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India marks 'golden moment' of liberty

Midnight ceremonies follow stark reminders of continuing poverty, corruption, violence and division

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA tuned to its television and radio at midnight last night to bathe in the nostalgia of half a century of independence, reminding itself, as President Narayanan declared in a nationwide address, that "this midnight hour... is a golden moment in the history of India."

Parliament assembled for a midnight session to hear the taped speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, and Mahatma Gandhi, father of independence, who together led a fifth of humanity, 400 million people, to freedom from colonial rule.

During the day, the chamber of the Lok Sabha (lower house) had been a hubbub of screaming abuse, with MPs threatening fistfights in a row over demands for presidential rule to be imposed on the northern state of Bihar — which has appalling corruption as well as the nation's worst poverty. It is the model for all that has gone wrong with the dreams of 50 years.

It was a rude reminder of how far India has yet to go. But early in the morning the dignity of the occasion prevailed as Parliament heard Nehru's voice declaring that at the midnight hour the soul of a nation is long suppressed, found utterance.

The old men of the freedom struggle, some in their nineties, earlier participated in a parade down Rajpath, the former King's Road, which sweeps down from the Presidential Palace through wide lawns to India Gate — monuments built by the Raj to dominate, but now responding to the sounds and aspirations of an India seeking prosperity and modernisation.



Many of the freedom fighters spent years in colonial jails, as had Nehru and Gandhi. The survivors are entitled to special pensions and travel concessions on trains, a dying band of idealists enjoying the modest fruits of their suffering. They were treated shabbily yesterday.

They were jammed together on the hard floors of government buildings, where they slept in the clammy monsoon heat. Some were so upset they wanted to go home early. But they stayed, twiddling their radios at midnight to hear the President remind them of the "tragedy and the trauma" of partition when they were young. He proclaimed India's

success in maintaining its unity, and declared its greatest achievement to be the establishment of a democratic system of government and politics. Tacitly referring to the lower castes and the Untouchables, from where he springs, President Narayanan said the lower and poor sections of society, as well as women, were being drawn into the political system.

Hundreds of miles to the east, just hours before the midnight celebrations, a bomb exploded in a passenger train in Assam, killing at least six people. It was planted by Bodo tribesmen, who are demanding a homeland in what has become one of the most traumatised corners of India.

It was a reminder of the many diverse and violent struggles going on across the nation. Even the Punjab separatist movement, crushed after a decade of bloodletting, shows signs of flickering back to life. To the north, Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir, declared in an independence-day message that no power on earth could undo the "historic reality" of the state's accession to India in 1947.

This was a reminder to Kashmiri Muslims that their dream of secession from India will continue to be forcibly opposed. His father, Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmiri leader, was jailed by Nehru for dabbling with the idea of an independent state. Farooq Abdullah is the voice of pro-Indian Kashmiri Muslims, a minority almost too small to count, a man not much loved by his own crushed, disillusioned people, for whom midnight passed in silent despair.

Patrick French, page 16
Leading article
and letters, page 17

Boothroyd hails birth of nation

Delhi: Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, in the capital for the jubilee, said India's birth was the most inspiring world event in more than 50 years, the Press Trust of India reported. "There have been many historic events since the end of the Second World War," she said. "None has been more bearable and more desirable and more inspiring than the establishment of the state of India." (AFP)

Two die as police fire on crowd at Jinnah's tomb

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

CELEBRATIONS of the anniversary of Pakistan's independence were overshadowed yesterday when a riot erupted in Karachi.

Police fired on surging crowds, killing two young men and wounding three.

Thousands of people had gathered outside the tomb of Pakistan's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in a colourful ceremony that quickly turned from jubilation to violence as police moved in with batons to disperse the crowd. People took off their shoes and began throwing them at police, one of whom opened fire.

Celebrations were peaceful elsewhere, and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, issued a call for peace with neighbouring India. "It is now the time for India and Pakistan to leave their differences behind them and march together towards peace and prosperity," Mr Sharif declared. At the same

PAKISTAN

time, however, he said that Pakistan would continue to provide material and moral support to Kashmiri separatists fighting against India. "Our real independence will come when Kashmir joins us," he declared.

Two of the three wars



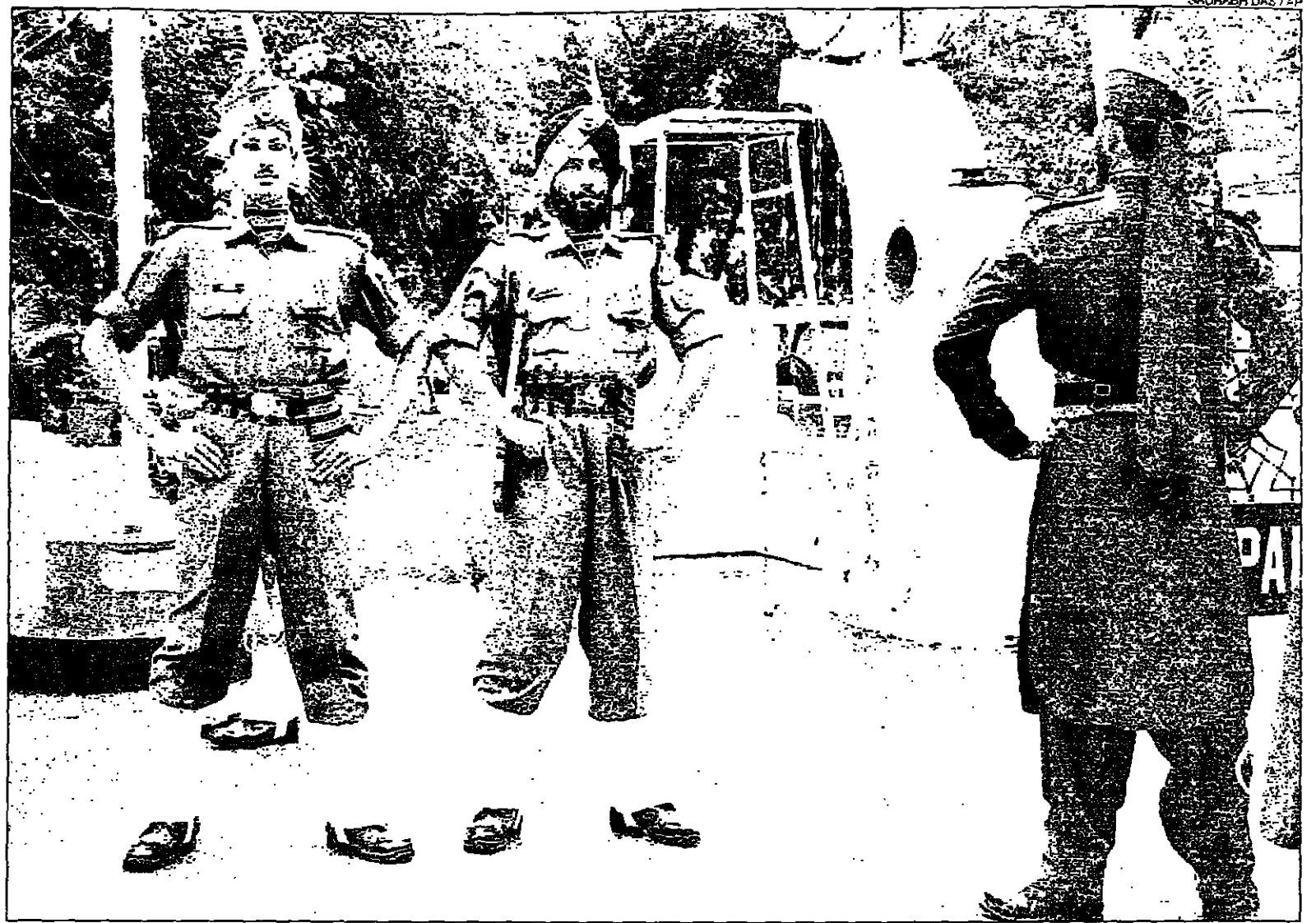
Sharif issued appeal for peace with India

fought between Pakistan and India have been over their claims on the Himalayan state. While they have moved to ease tension over the past few months, their positions on Kashmir have remained inflexible.

Thousands of young people poured into the streets of Lahore and Karachi waving national flags. Schoolchildren in their colourful dresses took part in officially sponsored festivals.

But the lack of enthusiasm and a sense of despondency among the common people was apparent. For most Pakistanis, it was a day for soul-searching, reviving memories of partition in which millions of people were killed and families divided.

President Leghari was absent from ceremonies in Islamabad, the capital, after a disagreement with Mr Sharif. His only official appearance was in Karachi where he laid a wreath at the Jinnah mausoleum.



Indian soldiers, left, and their Pakistani counterparts stand guard at the border crossing at Wagha on the eve of the 50th anniversary of independence and partition. Every night families divided by the border gather on either side to catch a glimpse of each other

Cries and handshakes mark ritual underlining pains of separation

EVERY sunset for almost 50 years a solemn flag-lowering ceremony has been performed at the only road linking India and Pakistan, in the heart of the divided flatlands of Punjab. It is a maudlin affair, watched always on both sides by crowds peering expectantly down the forbidden road.

They are curious about each other's unreachable country and about the tantalisingly close people with whom they share history, language, culture, food and families. They are the same people, albeit Hindu, Sikh and Muslim, and they smile and wave across the divide like old friends, which some are.

Relatives who have not met in half a century occasionally travel to the border at sunset, when the gates are opened briefly, to shout and wave across the 50-yard gap. Cameras click, there is excitement. But it is a dreadful ritual, emphasising the human reality of partition, which created the greatest human migration in history and one of the biggest mass slaughters. Perhaps 500,000 died and millions were uprooted.

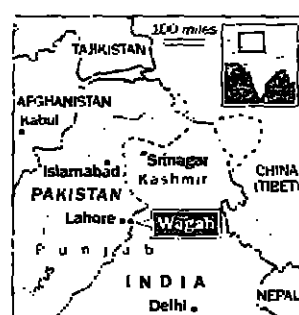
As the monsoon sky turned red, a soldier from each side marches briskly into the oft man's land that demarcates the border, salutes, shakes hands and marches back. This always brings applause and not a few tears to see a Pakistani and an Indian soldier express such mutual respect. The crowds seem frustrated, as if they want to move forward and meet, too.

The Pakistani and Indian flags face each other on high poles on the boundary line. As they are lowered diagonally, two harmonised bugles sounding the retreat, they pass within a few feet of each other in the centre of the road — assuredly a deliberate gesture. The wind pushes them together, bringing applause. Fifty years of political separation have failed to dull a profound sense of human unity built up over 5,000 years of shared history.

The mood between India and Pakistan has changed, not because of the politicians but in spite of them. A few years ago headline writers on both sides were still pouring out warmongering clichés, politicians ranted about the country next door and state-controlled radio and television issued lies and half-truths.

This no longer happens, at least less so, because it no longer works. People are weary of it and do not believe it. Pakistani politicians and religious leaders can no longer convince people that the big neighbour wants to invade, that the Muslims of the Kashmir Valley crave unity with Pakistan, or that there is anything whatever to fear from an India that talks only of peace.

Benazir Bhutto bungled in this year's Pakistani general election by raging against India. Nawaz Sharif, her opponent, sensed the changed mood and pledged reconciliation. He won, she lost. The Kashmir card is not as effective as it once was: Pakistanis care more about domestic problems than some vague, unconvincing notion of Islamic brotherhood with a reluctant Indian Kashmir.



A poignant nightly gathering in the border town of Wagha is recalled by Christopher Thomas

Since becoming Prime Minister, Mr Sharif has allowed himself to be photographed in the embrace of Inder Kumar Gujral, his Indian counterpart, with whom he chats in English, Punjabi and Urdu, and with whom he shares a desire to open cross-border trade and begin the relationship anew.

It has suddenly become not only politically possible to seek friendship with India — up to a point — but politically wise. India has promised more liberal visa regulations to allow Pakistanis to visit relatives and friends, a gesture Pakistan has yet to match. It is immensely difficult for people to get permission to cross the border, but many now do so vicariously through satellite television, providing unfettered knowledge of the neighbour and exposing the lying rhetoric of some of their politicians.

Several years ago India was enraptured by a television adaptation of the *Mahabharata*, the Hindu epic. Border areas of Pakistan, where the signal could be picked up, practically came to a halt every Sunday when it was broadcast, demonstrating the supremacy of culture over the religious and political divide.

There are many such ties. Indian film music is enormously popular in Pakistan, the most watched films are from Bollywood (spoken Hindi and Urdu are practically the same), and there is intense interest in each other's sporting achievements.

The countries remain culturally and humanly close, and there is a grassroots yearning to be closer. Fifty years after it was created, the border is blurring, just a little.

Delhi: India yesterday accused Pakistan of enlisting China's help to develop nuclear warheads for medium-range missiles and also said its neighbour may have deployed M11 ballistic missiles near the Indian border.

In a written answer to a question in the upper house whether the Government "is aware of Pakistan's developing of nuclear warheads for its medium-range missiles with active technical assistance from China", Saleem Iqbal Sherani, a junior Foreign Minister, replied: "Yes, sir."

When another member of parliament asked if the Government had verified reports that Pakistan had deployed Chinese-built M11 missiles near the Indian border, Kamla Sinha, also a junior Foreign Minister, replied: "Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed." It is believed to be the first time India has publicly and unambiguously accused China of supplying M11 missiles to Pakistan. The United States voiced deep concern over the alleged supply of Chinese missiles to Pakistan. Both Pakistan and China have denied reports of missile transfers. (Reuters)

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Eastern Energy Limited hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Director General of Electricity Supply for a Private Electricity Supply Licence authorising the supply of electricity to any premises in England and Wales which, at the time the Licence is granted, the Licensee reasonably expects to be defined as "Designated Premises" and which is not expected to be the subject of a restriction under the terms of Condition 2 of the Standard Second Tier Supply Licence, as set out below.

- Full name of applicant: Eastern Energy Ltd
- Operating address of the applicant: Medina House 324-326 Silbury Boulevard Milton Keynes MK9 2AE
- Registered Office: Wharfedale Park Wharfedale Ipswich IP9 2AQ
- Company's registered number: 3181389
- Company's current directors: John Francis Devaney and Paul Colin Marsh
- Details of shareholdings: Not applicable
- Date from which licence is to take effect: 1 October 1997
- Nature and situation of premises to be supplied: Designated Premises as defined in Condition 26 of the Standard Second Tier Supply Licence - that is to say premises in England and Wales at which a supply is taken wholly or mainly for domestic purposes or such premises at which the normal annual consumption of electricity will amount to no more than 12000kWh.
- Total number of premises to be supplied and aggregated estimated maximum demand: Set out in confidential business plan submitted to OFFER.
- A description of how electricity is to be supplied: The electricity will be supplied using the distribution systems of other Public Electricity Suppliers.
- Extent of powers to be given: No powers required.
- Details of any licences held: None

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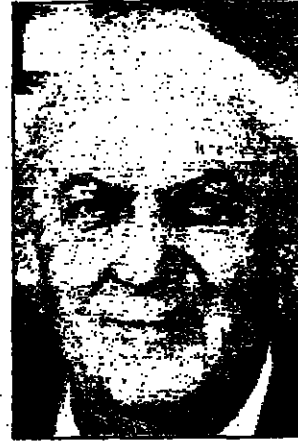
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

Antoniietta Beluzzi in a scene from *Amarcord*

Antonieta Beluzzi, one of the stars of Federico Fellini's



□ **Tourists seized:** Ten Italians, including a nine-year-old boy, have been abducted in two incidents in Yemen, the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome said yesterday. There have been four such incidents involving Italians in recent weeks. (Reuters)

[illegible]

*Reductions taken from list prices. Minimum list price £1500. **Extra discounts apply to orders of £1500 or above.

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

Michael Freminet, a former paratrooper now 21, was charged soon after the killing, and three companions were charged with complicity. (AP)

FROM TOM WALKER
IN PALE

Tracked down with difficulty, Ilija Drakovic, the Government's chief of protocol, insisted it was business as usual in Republika Srpska. Dr Karadzic was not going to give himself up, but was in touch with The Hague, he said. "He is working on a lot of material that he is sending to The Hague that proves he is not guilty. It is nonsense to accuse him, and he is not going to leave Republika Srpska in humiliation."

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION



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Clinton's gospel on religion

Lima: Elba Minaya Calle, who was named in 1996 as Peru's Judge of the Year, faces trial for terrorism after allowing the release of a woman held as a suspected left-wing guerrilla supporter. (Reuter)

[illegible]

Fakes – the artifice behind the artefact

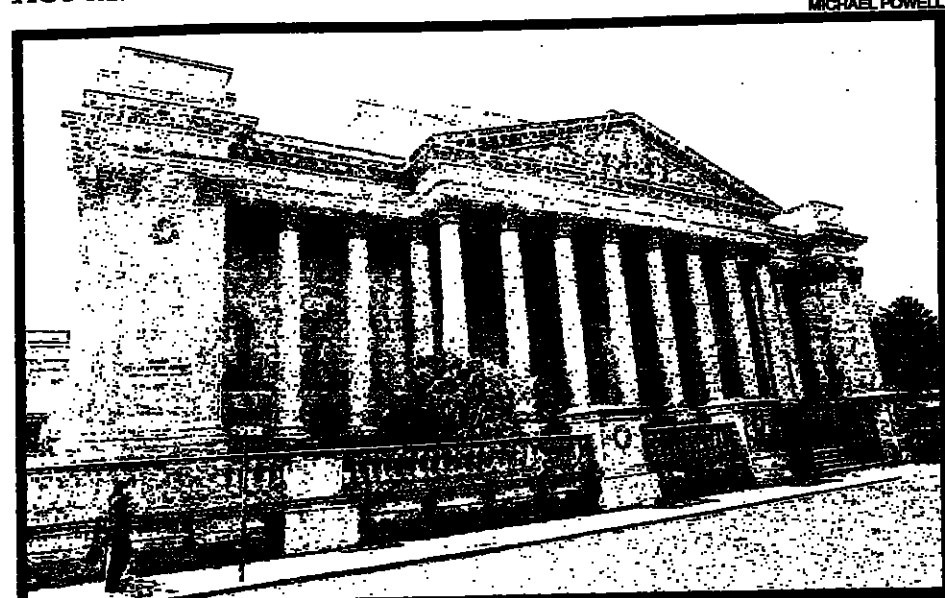
In their painstaking research into the trade in antiquities, Dr David Gill and Dr Christopher Chippindale highlight an aspect of the trade not generally taken on board by non-archaeologists – the close link between illegally excavated and smuggled goods, and widespread faking. According to the thermoluminescence laboratory in Oxford, some 40 per cent of antiquities sent in for testing are of modern manufacture.

Few collectors are willing to acknowledge that some of the objects in their possession are, possibly, fake. In the *Glories of the Past* exhibition, held at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1990, and featuring the private collection of Shelby White and Leon Levy, one object, a copper statuette of a male figure, was described as "found at Jezzein in central Lebanon". True enough, but nowhere was there any mention that an associated figure in the British Museum was featured in the museum's own exhibition *Fake? The Art of Deception*. Twice it was adjudged inauthentic, once genuine. Had it been excavated under archaeological supervision, there would have been no doubt.

Much more important, however, is the fact that several categories of antiquities are known only from unprovenanced objects. Here we shall focus on Cycladic objects – from the islands in the Aegean Sea. Since it is hard to tell forged and real Cycladic figures apart (available scientific tests do not work with stone) it is entirely possible that whole areas of this field are forged.

Once, Cycladic figures were about the length of a forearm. After they became popular in the salerooms, however, bigger statues began to turn up on the market, fetching higher prices. But since none has a secure provenance, and since science cannot tell a fake from the real thing, how can we be sure that any of these larger and more expensive statues are real? The answer is: we cannot. The same applies to male figures. Where Cycladic figures can be gendered, they are female, for no male figure

Day Two: A high proportion of antiquities in private collections and museums are probably not ancient at all, writes Peter Watson



The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has come in for censure

has ever been found with a secure provenance – thus all male figures may be fake.

The high proportion of unprovenanced and recently surfaced antiquities in a collection is one measure of the damage, for which the commercially minded salerooms and unthinking collectors must bear some responsibility. But Dr Gill

– a senior lecturer in the classics and ancient history department at the University of Wales, Swansea, and Dr Chippindale, senior assistant curator at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge and editor of the journal *Antiquity* – have studied the unprovenanced objects offered for sale and acquired by modern collectors, and have identified at least five ways in which the archaeological context of these artefacts are "lost". Taken together, such losses amount to a powerful indictment of collecting.

How do we know clay and marble 'idols' weren't just toys?

One form of loss has already been described – the spread of unprovenanced antiquities, which, allied to the massive jumble of fakes, means that whole categories of object may be spurious. That apart, potentially the most damaging loss

is the large number of objects that are, or are supposed to be, found in groups. In the George Ortiz Collection, for example, two Corinthian terracottas, a hare and a komast (dancer), are "said to have been found in the same tomb", allegedly in Etruria, modern Tuscany, in Italy. The

site of the find might explain the juxtaposition of hare and komast, which, on the face of it, is not at all an obvious pairing and may have an unusual meaning. Without such information – and none has yet been published – the whole exercise is futile. In another case, two bronze statuettes of Heracles in the *Crossroads* collection shown

at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge were said to have been found together in Afghanistan. They would be more valuable if they had been found together, as this is rare. But who can tell whether it is true, and what was the significance of two Heracles figures being found together? We may never know.

There are many examples in auction catalogues of objects said to be found together. But who can prove it? We have only the salerooms' word to go on and, behind them, dealers and looters, with a commercial interest in these things being found together. The sheer futility of all this is underlined by yet another phenomenon identified by Dr Gill and Dr Chippindale, which they term "wish fulfilment". They give two examples of this. The first is a marble "egg" in the Ortiz Collection that, allegedly, comes from the Cyclades. A date for this is given as 3200-2100 BC. But without any published knowledge of its provenance, or the context in which it was found, this object could actually be no more than an egg-shaped pebble picked

up on any of the Greek islands. To call it an "egg", thereby implying intention on the part of the artist and a role for the object, perhaps in religious practices, is entirely unwarranted, archaeologically speaking.

A second common effect of wish fulfilment is to see all clay and marble figures as "idols", interesting statuettes that played a part in mysterious cults. But they may just as easily have been toys – less "interesting" and, therefore, less valuable.

In these ways scholarship is devalued, and the role of the collector takes precedence over that of the disinterested, and better informed, scholars. In effect, these are sloppy forms of intellectual analysis.

But the best example of the way our understanding of the past has been distorted by the values of the auction houses and the activities of rich and not-very-knowledgeable collectors (some of whom, nevertheless, like to pose as scholars) is the whole concept of Cycladic figures. Already plagued by fakes and copies, the collecting and saleroom framework of "art" is being imposed on an archaeology that may have no relation whatsoever to that structure.

The most ludicrous example of this is the practice of attributing this or that Cycladic figure to this or that "master". Already we have sculptures alleged to be by the "Douras Master", the "Berlin Master", the "Fitzwilliam Master" and the "Copenhagen Master". In one of Christie's catalogues, there is even a reference to a statue being "in the style of the Schuster Master".

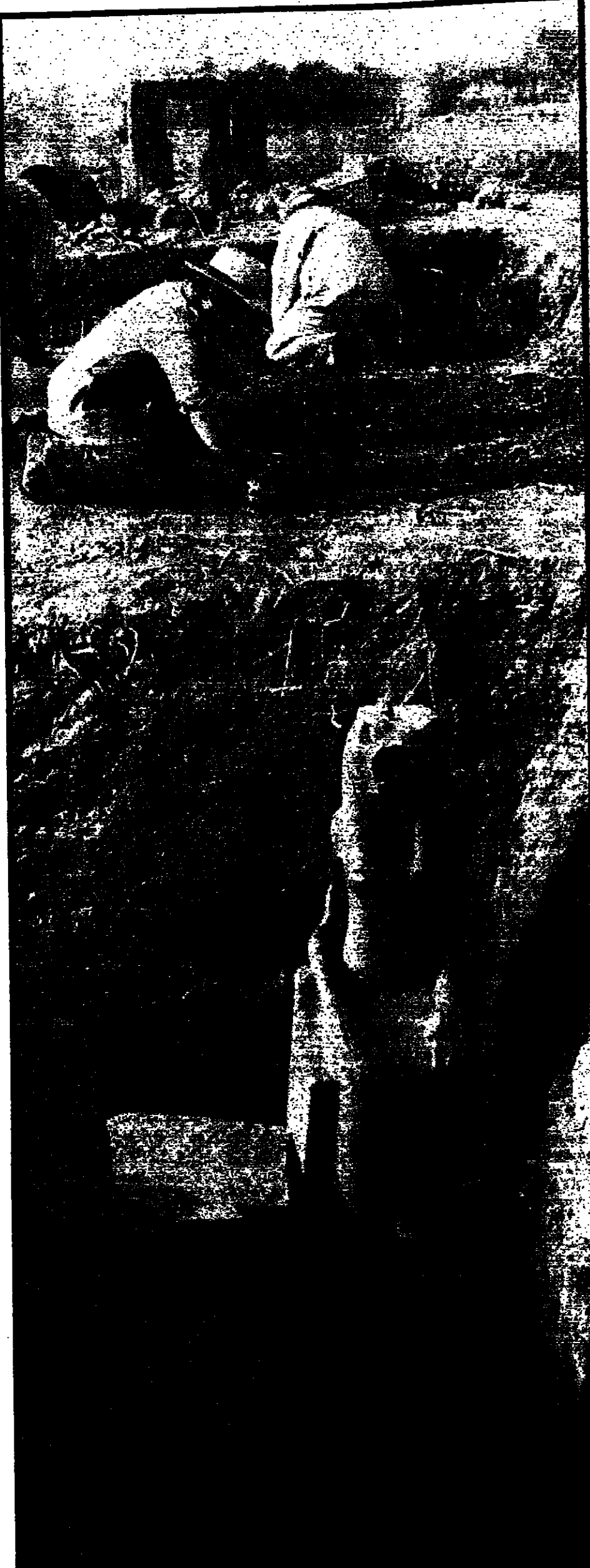
Yet "master" is a concept invented for Renaissance art, and it contains two ingredients that simply do not apply to Cycladic art and many other antiquities. First, it implies – as was true of the Renaissance – that there were masters, artists capable of producing masterpieces in their own distinctive style and good enough to be followed by other, lesser, artists. Secondly, as traditionally used, the qualification of the master was confined to something distinctive about his style when his name was not known. It was based on the ideas of the Italian connoisseur Giovanni Morrelli, taken up and developed by Bernard Berenson, who argued that authorship in an unsigned work could be identified by little, unconscious flourishes in a work – the way the drapery was painted, for example.

Thus, in painting we have "The Master of S Bartholomew", named from a series of panels in Cologne and Munich in which the style suggests the painter was from Utrecht, or "Master of the Aix Annunciation", named for a triptych now in three places – Aix, Amsterdam and Rotterdam – in which a Flemish artist is suggested.

In the case of Cycladic art, however, this academic tradition is also corrupted. In the first place, the "masters" are named not after the defining characteristic of the artist, which sets his work apart, or an important work epitomising particular skills, but after the owner of the object, the collection of which it forms a part, or the museum where the collection is held. The aim is either a commercial one (to suggest how good the sculptor was) and/or to flatter the owner. Once again, scholarly aims have been subordinated to commercialism.

Even more fundamentally wrong is the very idea that there ever was such a person as the "Copenhagen Master", or "Fitzwilliam Master" in Cycladic art. The Cyclades were a group of small islands peopled by fisher-farmers who never developed the palaces, temples and other public buildings that are, by conventional standards, the hallmark of "civilisation". It is unlikely there were "masters" of anything in Cycladic society.

Some statues are said to have "canonical" proportions, presuming Cycladic artists had such a canon in mind, while others are described as "post-canonical", implying a development over time. Again, these ideas are based as much on unprovenance – and thus possibly fake – material as on objects that are "archaeologically secure". They imply an understanding of mathematics, in order to achieve these complex canonical proportions, for which there is no evidence. In the circum-



The location of a find can be crucial to solving archaeological conundrums

stances, any concept of a "canon", or implication of development, is at best premature, at worst irresponsible.

In addition, some figures have traces of blue or red paint, so that we are not even sure what colour they originally were, or how they were decorated. So how can we judge who was a master?

Dr Gill and Dr Chippindale have put collectors and museums under the spotlight, saying their actions are no less to blame than those of the looters themselves for the damage caused to our understanding of the past. The likes of George Ortiz have often argued that, even if their collections contain loot, then at least those objects are better looked after, and are available for study. The two academics, however, counter that this means little, given that their most interesting aspects have been lost.

Their investigation also showed that far more damage to archaeology has been done than had been thought. Dr Gill and Dr Chippindale say that between 11,000 and 12,000 Cycladic graves must have been plundered to provide the body of 1,600 known objects. This, they say, represents about 16 entire cemeteries and some 85 per cent of the funerary record. In the case of Cycladic art, there may now be nothing left to discover, legally or otherwise.

They reserve special criticism for the Fitzwilliam Museum. They reveal that ahead of its exhibition *Crossroads* of Asia in 1992, they wrote to its

director, requesting assurances that the many Gandharan objects in the show were "archaeologically secure".

They felt entitled to do so because although the idea for the show had been mooted before that particular director took over, the guidelines of the Museums and Galleries Commission of England and Wales state in part: "A museum should not acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any work of art or object unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the specimen in question, and that in particular it has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws."

No reply was ever received from the Fitzwilliam in answer to this query, or from the Ancient India and Iran Trust that sponsored the exhibition. Dr Chippindale therefore wrote an editorial in *Antiquity* in which he pointed out that most of the objects in that part

of the forthcoming exhibition, owned by an organisation known only as "A.I.C.", were not secure archaeologically, and that 88 per cent had no provenance whatsoever before the show. The matter was then raised with the ethical committee of the Museums Association, but it failed to address the issue effectively.

In their forthcoming paper, Dr Gill and Dr Chippindale write: "It seems that in allowing the [Crossroads] exhibition to proceed, the Fitzwilliam has publicly endorsed the display of antiquities which can reasonably be expected to have been looted. They seem to be taking the view that so long as the objects are beautiful, it does not matter that the original archaeological context has been lost and can never be recovered. Such a view merely serves to encourage the market, and private collectors to continue the destruction."

This stance marks a new development among archaeologists – a willingness, a military almost, to use their most powerful weapon, scholarship itself, to engage in battle with the collectors, the auction houses and the dealers, as well as the looters.

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Now the smart are well roomed

Your interior is now more important than your exterior: decorating is set to knock clothes from the pinnacle of fashion, says Nick Foulkes

Much along the lines of such fashion dictators as "brown is the new black", it seems to be emerging that interiors are the new clothes, and houses are the new fashion.

When the British Retail Consortium asked Britons how they would be spending their building society windfalls, 17 per cent said on furniture and carpets. Heals says its underlying sales are up 18 per cent. Indeed, such is this smart metropolitan furniture retailer's optimism that it is setting up out of town.

In newsagents the traditionally dominant swath of women's titles seems under threat from an ever-increasing array of homes magazines.

In the general marketplace of magazines, the ones that are to do with homes are selling exceptionally well. They are carrying buckets more advertising: as a proposition they are very successful, says IPC Magazines' Sally O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan's enthusiastic observations about this sector of the magazine business are probably not unrelated to her position as Editor-in-Chief of no fewer than four interiors titles: *Ideal Home*, *Homes & Gardens*, *Country Homes & Interiors* and *Homes & Ideas*. But it seems her enthusiasm is supported by rising circulation and increased advertising revenue.

"It used to be that women got turned on by lipstick and Lycra, and now it is sofas and sinks," says O'Sullivan in best soundbite mode. "It is not confined to one sector of class or age; it is hitting women in their 20s or 30s. Women tend to turn to conservatories when all else fails, but it used not to be the case that women in their 20s and 30s bought a new candlestick with as much pleasure as a new nail varnish."

Nor is it just glossy magazines that are responding to the cries of twentysomething girls and middle-aged windfall recipients clamouring for news on the latest wood-effect floorings and light fittings. On the nation's television screens, the only programmes that seem to be challenging football's hegemony are those that involve interior design. Whether it is a scholarly look at the social history of DIY, or a tabloid-style makeover of some ghastly suburban semi

performed against the clock and within a minuscule budget, it is hard to doubt the importance with which interiors are viewed by the programmers.

"I have always said that interiors influence fashion," says the prophetic society decorator Nicky Haslam, adding on an historical note, "during the 18th century, the way chairs were made dictated how people dressed."

Slightly more recently, Haslam has noticed that the social stock of the decorator has been rising. If hairdressers, in the mould of Warren Beatty in *Shampoo*, were the people around whom beautiful people gathered in the Sixties and early Seventies, and if fashion designers along the lines of Halston, and

Versace were the social engines that drove the late 70s and the 80s, then it is now the turn of the interior decorator.

Among the names mentioned by Haslam are Georges Grange and Peter Marino. And, if prompted, Haslam will admit, "my picture appears in things like Bystander [in the *Tatler*] much more frequently these days."

However, Haslam does not think that the new social prominence of the interior designer will result in fashion victims being replaced by interior-design victims. "I don't think people will become slaves to decoration. It takes longer for them to add their own input," he explains.

Although people can be well dressed by the right couturier, Haslam asserts: "You can't be well roomed by the right decorator, because you have to make it your own. Rooms can look sterile, whereas clothes, because they are moving and have your face in them, aren't."

I may well be that people these days wish to express themselves through taps rather than frocks, but the big fashion design houses are not about to free their slaves and emancipate their serfs. Fashion designers are intent on extending their grip on our lives by moving into our bedrooms and on to our dining tables.

Mulberry, a company that for years was content to sell us belts and bags, now feels it is important to flog us an all-round lifestyle package of ersatz Englishness. Denim



Nesting is news: interiors magazines fill newsagents, decorating programmes vie with football for television supremacy, and home designers are the new lifestyle gurus

may be all very well for jeans, but as any devotee of Ralph Lauren knows, this sturdy blue fabric is at its best when made into a tablecloth. And if you can't afford a Christian Lacroix outfit, then at least you can share in the dream by spending £34 on a quartet of Christian's lacy, sorbet-coloured napkins.

Sue Crewe, who as Editor of *House & Garden* enjoys the same sort of omnipotence in the interior decoration world that the Editor of *Vogue* does when it comes to frocks and shoes, welcomes the arrival of interiors by fashion designers only cautiously. "The designers themselves are aware that we want to extend their influence into our homes."

Crewe believes that people are attracted to interior decorating because they are bored with the homogenous nature

of shopping for clothes. From Fifth Avenue to Hong Kong's Central District — and in every major departure lounge shopping mall in between — one sees nothing but the same clothes by the same names.

The gospel according to Crewe is that the home is "an area in which we can express how we feel about ourselves in a way that works, the permutations inside one's house are infinite."

"As the world gets busier, noisier, fuller and more dangerous, our houses are sanctuaries. They don't have to be expensive. We can express creativity and idiosyncrasy relatively inexpensively."

As well as being somewhere to go home after work and to shelter us from the elements, the house is increasingly being perceived as a stage set upon which we can integrate the life

we lead with the one we dream of living.

Attitudes to decoration are much more catholic. A couple of decades ago the British regarded decorators with the same sort of suspicion that they reserved for foreign food and men who used beauty products. Nowadays these things are no longer taboo.

"There is a wonderful diversity," says Crewe. "I have never seen such a range of styles and tastes. There is no so-called good or correct style."

It seems that anything goes in interior decorating... well almost anything. Occasionally Crewe will come across something that prompts her to say:

"It would have been all right five years ago, but it is a bit dated now."

Among the things that are showing their age are tapestry-covered ottomans; Crewe says oriental is big these days. Architectural prints are being retired in favour of 17th-century garden designs. Deep fringes on curtains are show-

ing their age; these days fashion-leading windows are clothed in linen Roman blinds.

Linen is also high on Nicky Haslam's list of current looks: he much prefers linen carpets to coir matting, which he feels is too early Nineties. And as for magnolia? Remember you heard it here first — warm grey is the new magnolia.

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The teachers' party is put to the test

John Lloyd wonders where Labour stands in the culture war

In none of its high ambitions for the country it governs is new Labour so exposed as in education. That which has been announced as the passion of a premiership cannot suffer neglect or indifference. It must be, and be seen to be, privileged over all else. Labour is committed, even more than the Conservatives were, to improving the educational standards of the masses. It made much of what the Tories had already accepted: that by international standards the standards of the educational elite were high, but those of the generality of school leavers low. It thus wants to push more people through more courses at every level than ever before — and it also wants standards to improve at the same time.

even as it liberates funds for other uses. These schools are not the fringe institutions for children of religious or minority views they are elsewhere: they are the countries' top education factories, producing year after year the young men and women who can reasonably expect to be disproportionately represented in the highest posts — and the world's — because they are rich and selective.

And because they test. Schools in the public sector are increasingly leery of exams. The teachers' campaign against examinations in English grammar and literature at age 14 seems to have won: these tests will not be introduced this year as the previous administration had planned. State school teachers prefer coursework, which they believe gives a rounded view of the pupil, not a quick snapshot of his or her ability to perform at speed and under pressure. Labour is clearly split on this: despite Baroness Blackstone's denial in *The Times* yesterday, the Government is not ruling out a baccalaureate-style final examination, or at least a broader and more testing version of the present A-level system.

We are no longer sure William Shakespeare is better than Steven Spielberg

Can all of this change be accommodated? And can it be accommodated without widening further the distance between the well and badly educated? New Labour has to face a deep philosophical divide within the teaching and the academy between those who see culture as a "canon" of great works and advances in understanding — and those who regard this approach as the product of an elitist view of the world and a perpetuation of it. British culture wars are as yet a pale echo of the sulphurous engagements on American campuses: but as we push more and more students through universities, these conflicts will get hotter.

Where does new Labour come down on this debate? It is still the teachers' party, and teachers are less inclined now to explain Lear's soliloquies to a class than to search for a flicker of interest in a discussion of *EastEnders* or *Mr Bean*. We no longer can claim with serene confidence that Shakespeare is better than Spielberg: indeed, the "democratic" and the market, answer is clearly in favour of Spielberg.

The students, who this week have experienced the emotions of success, or failure, or a little of both when they learnt of their A-level results, will continue their studies in a world governed by men and women less secure in their views of what and how to educate than ever before. But insecurity is only part of it: on the other side is a world of potential, if it can only be grasped. If there is no canonical authority in our schools, there are a thousand diverse possibilities. Some should surely be realised before Labour's passion is spent.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Does prosperity beckon for Africa at last? Or is there no end to its poverty, wickedness and despair?

The trail of skeletons along desiccated highways... the lassitude and hopelessness of emaciated survivors crowded into refugee camps... the mounds of corpses. Africa has been betrayed from within.

Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian author who wrote that, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986. Soyinka has moved on in his mind from Africa's colonial past, and I, too, intend to dwell on what has happened since Empire. I wrote recently about Africa's political degradation. But this cannot be separated from the ruin of the continent's economic fabric.

Some two thirds of Africa's people remain subsistence farmers and the first test of the continent's record in realising its potential must be the exploitation of its huge agricultural resources. Food production per capita has fallen by 20 per cent since 1976. Though it fluctuates with good and bad harvests, the underlying rate is still falling.

And people die. Across much of Africa, life expectancies are barely half what they are in the West. Malnutrition affects more than 20 per cent of the population in 36 countries. There has been a widespread deterioration of health care: in the five years to 1990 access to basic health services declined by 17 per cent in the poorest countries. For millions, hopes of sanitation and clean water are receding. In 15 countries, contributing between them more than half the total African population, life expectancy at birth is decreasing.

There is little reason to hope that mortality will not carry on rising. The continent's maternal and child mortality rates are the highest in the world. Three million Africans die each year before their fifth birthday. The World Health Organisation believes that within three years, 10 per cent of the inhabitants of Uganda and Tanzania will be infected by the AIDS virus; already 70 per cent of AIDS cases have occurred in Africa.

Helping the spider out of the bathtub

Tales of Africa's suffering are legion. It is hard to know how many exaggerate. Yet where people live on the edge statistics are of limited value for charting real lives, and personal impressions count for something. My own — comparing recent travels with boyhood memories — is that the day-to-day life of the rural poor has changed little, except that fear of famine, epidemics, cruelty and war has grown. In the towns, conditions are much worse. Millions have drifted there, and there are neither jobs nor services nor framework of law to sustain them.

Since 1965, Africa's average per capita income has halved from 14 to 7 per cent of industrial countries' levels to 7 per cent now. The 47 sub-Saharan countries contribute just 2.4 per cent of global GDP — nearly half of it from South Africa and Nigeria. In 1995, 15 African countries managed a growth rate of more than 5 per cent; yet, with Africa's population set to double to more than a billion within 30 years, that is about the rate required simply to maintain abysmal living standards.

I said abysmal: 210 million people in sub-Saharan Africa survive on less than \$1 a day. To be classified as "wealthy", an individual needs an income of \$460. In the mid-70s, 11 sub-Saharan countries were "middle income" in World Bank terms. By the start of the Nineties only six were.

Here we should pause. Optimists now claim that Africa has turned an economic corner. The number of countries whose economies are

shrinking has dropped: the average growth rate is now 5 per cent. Ghana is looking up at present; heavens knows it is from a near-ruinous past. Uganda has climbed back — if not to the prosperity of her colonial days — at least some way from the horrors that engulfed her in the Seventies and Eighties. So are my analysis and pessimism out of date?

Sadly I suspect not. The price of oil rose by some 25 per cent in 1995-96 and Africa is a large producer. Just before that, a substantial upturn in the world's non-oil commodity prices began. Africa exports little but prima-

ry products. For the most part, therefore, encouraging figures for "growth" chart the growth in market value of natural resources rather than increased population. Only limited manufacturing accompanies the extraction of resources, and the "trickle-down" of higher receipts into the living standards of the poor. Figures for Nigeria's vast earnings from oil belie the wreckage of its economy.

To put it crudely, much of Africa's "income" relates to commodities, which are bulldozed out of the earth and shipped abroad in exchange for

capita on debt repayment. Per capita spending on health is \$2.50.

By contrast, real foreign investment has been declining. The estimate for 1995 (\$2 billion) was down a third from the previous year and a fraction of what was sent as aid. The pitiful figure for investment looks even more dismal when you consider that most of it was aimed not at commercial or industrial development but at the exploitation of natural resources in countries with oil or minerals.

Twenty-five years ago, most African countries were richer than most of the Asian nations we now call "tiger" economies. In 1970, the Pearson Commission, examining South Korea's plight, commented that this was "a country doomed to perpetual dependence on foreign aid with no possibility of achieving a high growth rate from its own resources". Within three years, South Korea could be richer than the UK.

At whatever moment you chose during these past 30 years, it has always been possible to single out a couple of countries and say: "Ah, but these are showing the way. They have learnt the lessons of the past and are moving ahead." We said it of Zimbabwe, of Malawi, of Kenya, of the Ivory Coast. Now we say it of Uganda and Ghana. Some believe it of South Africa, too. I am still filled with foreboding for sub-Saharan Africa. I hope the optimists are right this time but they never were before. Watch spiders in a bathtub, and at any one point a couple have always made a little more progress up the sides than the rest.

How to get out of the bathtub? If my proposals on this page next Friday appear shocking, I hope the picture here painted shocks you, too. We have grown numb by Africa's despair. It is time to wake up to the wickedness of the status quo, register the despair, and consider desperate remedies.

Matthew Parris

A passage to normality

The most hopeful fact about India is that it goes on functioning, says Patrick French

Last year when I was in Bombay, I visited a factory which produces sculptures of national heroes. The firm had been in the family for three generations and the present boss was able to demonstrate how India's past is shifting as present-day politics changes. In his father's time, Gandhi or Nehru were in the greatest demand, but now the most popular sculptures were either of semi-mythical heroes such as the Marathi warrior Shivaji, or else of the leader of the Indian National Army, Subhas Chandra Bose.

Bose is a curious choice. His Japanese-backed army has no substantial achievement to its name, and in British history books he is usually dismissed as a jackbooted Fascist puppet. However, in India he fulfils a crucial emotional demand as the one figure in the freedom movement who dared to stand up to the British with force of arms. His death in 1945 leaves him untainted by the disasters of partition. For a country in crisis, Bose represents strong leadership.

Meanwhile, the British Government is responding to the anniversary of Indian independence with plans to erect a memorial commemorating the millions of Indian soldiers who fought with the Allies in the two world wars. The National Army Museum is holding an exhibition in their honour.

While British television and newspapers are having a full-scale Indiafest, in the sub-continent enthusiasm is more muted. It is said that one American company, PepsiCo, has spent more money in India on commemorating the jubilee than the Indian Government. There is some bafflement in Britain about this. But



the reasons are not hard to understand. The end of imperial rule is seen by many as a false dawn, when the promises that politicians had made were instantly broken.

What occurred on the night of August 14, 1947, was not a mass liberation of the Indian people, but a transfer of power from one English-speaking elite to another. It was accompanied by a reciprocal massacre between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in which nearly one million people were murdered and many millions more made homeless. This slaughter and displacement was not inevitable. It was a manufactured tragedy brought about by the cynicism, incompetence and misjudgments of British Congress and Muslim League politicians during the Thirties and Forties.

For the older generation, memories of 1947 are a cause for grief. It was a time when families were ripped apart, and the joy of throwing off centuries of foreign rule was tempered by the loss of a united country.

Yet despite today's hostile rhetoric between India and Pakistan, focusing on the still unresolved issue of Kashmir, many people in both countries do not see the rupture as absolute. In a poll by the Indian news magazine *Outlook*, only 36 per cent of respondents thought the partition of India had been necessary. An astonishing 58 per cent favoured the reunification of the two countries, which goes against the received wisdom in Islamabad and Delhi.

Many of the politicians who engineered the agreement of 1947 went on to take control. In India, Congress managed to keep an almost unbroken hold on power for more than 40

years, culminating in the premiership of Nehru's ineffectual grandson Rajiv Gandhi. In Pakistan, the founder of the nation, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, was dead by 1948, and his legacy was destroyed within a decade by military dictatorship.

After independence, India's new rulers inherited the name and the administrative structure of the British, and moved rapidly to integrate the hundreds of feudal princely states, and India became the world's largest democracy. Pakistan, meanwhile, had to cope with a desperate lack of infrastructure.

In the early 1990s, there was a surge of excitement about India's mild economic reforms. Yet while the neighbouring economies of South-East Asia have managed a rapid double-digit annual growth rate, India has remained a squalid eco-

nomie pussycat. The talk of a new Indian "middle class" of 240 million consumers is a gross exaggeration: there are no more than ten or twenty million people in India with the kind of disposable income that excites advertisers. India's share of world trade remains below 1 per cent, which is less than half of what it was in 1947. This is less a reflection of the failure of British rule than of the rank failure of the Soviet-style central planning brought in by Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi.

There is still no real national consensus on the way in which India should be run, and what degree of power should be devolved to state governments. Regionalist politicians are now increasingly vocal, yet their primary interest is in gaining roads and jobs for their own region. The central Government is a coalition of disparate interest groups, who have to look over their shoulders at the powerful spectre of the Hindu nationalist BJP, which won nearly a third of the vote in last year's general election.

This is, however, only one aspect of the story. India is clearly in a far better state than its neighbours Burma, Tibet and Afghanistan. It has a guaranteed freedom of expression that would be unthinkable in China. Democracy is entrenched, and the country is no longer scarred by the famines that afflicted it under British rule. Through its very diversity, India has an enormous inner strength.

It is a cliché to say that a nation has been betrayed by its leaders, but in the case of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is undeniably true. The most positive and optimistic fact about the sub-continent is that it continues to function, despite the antics of its politicians. Here, in Europe, assailed by reports of riots, slums and monsoons, it is easy to forget the normality of much of Indian life. Every day, millions of people go to school, go to work, eat normally and go to sleep in safety. That, in itself, is worth celebrating.

Patrick French is the author of *Liberty or Death: India's Journey to Independence* and *Division* (HarperCollins).

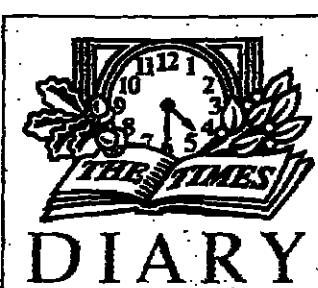
Royal tour

THERE is poison in Lower Pilsley: the Derbyshire village shaken by the recent visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed to see Rita Rogers, the local psychic. On Wednesday night, Nick Warren, the stepfather of Emma Radford,

the young girl who had photographed the Princess's visit, and the man who negotiated the sale of the pictures was given an earful by Mrs Rogers's daughter in his local. "She launched herself across the bar and came at me screaming about how I had ruined her mother's life," said Warren. "It was just about the last thing I needed." There is always the money as compensation. Warren says he has been promised £5,000 by *The Mirror* and 50 per cent of any syndication rights, which should mount up.

Yesterday, as part of the picture deal, Miss Radford, her mother, and some of Miss Radford's friends were touring London with £100 spending money each and accompanied by *The Mirror's* royal photographer. They even went to Harrods, where they met Mohamed Al Fayed, who gave Miss Radford a teddy bear.

Miss Radford's grandmother was unimpressed. "She thought that if he is one of the richest men in the world," says Warren, "a £4 teddy was a bit mean."



The royal reporters gathered at Heathrow yesterday to follow Dodi Fayed on his working trip to Los Angeles. When the time came for the flight to leave, still no Dodi. What should the hacks do? They were reluctant to pass up on their first-class tickets to LA. Then, one of them said "Maybe that psychic he went to see with Diana told him this flight was cursed." The party chuckled in their tickets and turned back to London.

Loyal fan

LABOUR's dour Social Security team will be cheered by the arrival of Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, who has just been made PPS to Frank Field, Social Security Minis-

ter. The independent-minded Ms Hoey is expected to lend breadth to Field's asceticism. A devoted Arsenal fan, she could start by taking him to Highbury. The last time he went to a match was to see his local team, Tranmere Rovers, in 1992 when the fans shouted "Frank's here, it must be the election".

Sweet song

PASSION runs thick in the family of Sir Georg Solti, the conductor, whose daughter Claudia is taking a play up to the Edinburgh Fringe.



Claudia Solti directing

In her first outing as a director, Miss Solti, 23, an Oxford graduate, is directing a production of *The Love of the Nightingale* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The artists Andrew Logan and Piers Jackson, Jade Jagger's former squeeze, will be doing the artwork.

Miss Solti says she has received every encouragement from her father, an active 83, who "even chose some of the music for the play". Nonetheless, it is probably just as well he is in Italy. His daughter is promising to create "a sexually provocative world, in which passion and desire are impossible to resist".

My report (Much Ado, August 8) on the party held near Siena, Tuscany, by Ned and Catherine Durham, the son and daughter-in-law of Lord Lambton, was exaggerated. Lord Lambton received no complaints about the guests' conduct, and he did not "boor the Durhams off the estate afterwards. They stayed on until the end of their holiday there. My apologies for any embarrassment.

Stone me

SHARON STONE, the Hollywood



Sharon Stone and Aldous Huxley: artistic collaborators

actress, has discovered a previously unpublished manuscript by the writers Aldous Huxley and Christopher Isherwood. She became intrigued by the missing work after she came across a reference to it while reading Huxley's recently published *Diaries*.

She contacted Huxley's widow and between them they found the manuscript to *Jacob's Hand*, written on onion-skin paper, the story of a ranch worker whose hands have the power to heal. The publishing rights have now been bought and there is even talk of a film being made in which Miss



Stone may take a role. Isherwood and Huxley experts are sceptical. "The play is appalling," says Peter Parker, who is currently writing a biography of Isherwood. "They must be bonkers if they are going to publish it. Isherwood and Huxley wrote it together in the Fifties and a version was made into a radio play. It is the most extraordinary story. Hollywood gush," adds Parker. "Collegially, the heroine is called Sharon."

P.H.S



INDIA PAST AND FUTURE

A country on the threshold of modernity

Although India's civilisations are millennial, timeless even, the arithmetic of modern anniversaries dictates that it declares itself to be 50 years old today. While this may strike some as absurd — no major religion pre-dates Hinduism and few extant languages are more ancient than, say, Tamil — today's date is imbued with powerful significance.

Even so, India as a nation state is young, and it has been the captive, for much of its history since the British left, of distinctly unmodern forces. An international economic lag during the long reigns of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi — and even in the years after them, when the country was ruled by a succession of less memorable Prime Ministers — India's governments for long withheld prosperity from India's own people, caging them in with an excess of state intervention and a hatred of free enterprise. An awkward socialism, born of a pride too starched and a too-prickly obsession with "self-sufficiency", left India to stagnate while other less dogmatic countries gave their people a better quality of life.

As it has approached its 50th "birthday", India has however dusted off many of those fingerprints. It stands, as a result, on the threshold of modernity: its economic reforms, at first driven more by desperation than by any serious intellectual conviction, have now dropped roots so deep that few can imagine a future government hacking at them with an interventionist machete.

With a very few exceptions, India's political classes have digested the most bitter truths about their country's post-colonial past. Ideology, rhetoric and nationalist pieties feed no one, clothe no one, make no profits and produce no goods for sale. Instead, they have impoverished a people who still stand, as the economist Amartya Sen has pointed out, "well behind where Japan stood at the time of the Meiji restoration in the mid-19th century". Half of all adults in India are illiterate, and at least a third of all people live below the World Bank's generously defined poverty line.

At 50, India has every reason to expect, and demand, better things. With a new and more realistic economic agenda, its democ-

cracy, a source of justifiable pride for India's nearly a billion people, should receive an infusion of fresh blood and fresh thinking. There is evidence of a new political landscape. An "Untouchable" has just been elected President, and will occupy the splendid residence that Lyttons built. Although the post is largely symbolic, his elevation is a break with the past that has electrified millions of his "Untouchable" compatriots, empowering them in no mean way.

There have been other striking changes. The present coalition Government in Delhi of Inder Kumar Gujral, while far from ideal, is at least proof of a new willingness to "cohabit" and compromise, qualities previously absent in India's overly Manichean capital. The Congress Party, the vehicle on which India travelled the long road to independence, is today a spent force, its impressive past now poisoned by infighting and moral decline. Strong regional parties have emerged, as has a sturdy Hindu nationalism. While the first can play an important role, as safety valves for India's over-centralised political system, the Hindu nationalists will need to understand that their pursuit of power cannot be at the expense of the country's large Muslim minority. To suggest otherwise would be to endanger one of India's most precious assets: its secularism.

Most striking, however, has been the new intellectual vigour that is coursing through India, a surge of long-delayed creativity. It is this "movement", perhaps, which is the best proof of India's self-confidence.

At the time of independence, on August 15, 1947, we wrote that Britain, in ruling India, had "constructed a bridge between East and West". Over that bridge, we said then, the traffic in ideas had been all from the West to the East. "Now, if the bridge but hold, there is opportunity for a reverse movement and the new India, quickened by acquired political sanity and a zeal for human welfare, can give to the West, storm-tossed by circumstance, something of her tranquil wisdom and her sedulous pursuit of eternal verities." Fifty years later, we believe that the traffic now flows too, on that same bridge, from East to West, traffic which enriches us as the West once enriched India.

ALWAYS WITH US?

New Labour's promise to the underclass

New Labour is a mixture of something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. Constitutional reform was inherited from John Smith, the social chapter and minimum wage were policies plundered from the Continent by Neil Kinnock, the blue thing comes with a frank admiration for Thatcherite purpose and drive. What is distinctively new was thrown into sharper focus yesterday by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, in the Fabian Society Summer Lecture. Mr. Mandelson, on this occasion entirely His Master's Voice, elaborated on Tony Blair's central ambition for new Labour in Government — the reintegration of the underclass.

The Prime Minister is animated by a desire to end the "social exclusion" felt by those, in Mr. Mandelson's words, "cut off from what the rest of us regard as everyday life". Tackling their problems is "essential for the Government's success". Mr. Mandelson maintained. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Mr. Blair's convictions, nor indeed Mr. Mandelson's, given the unforced passion with which he spoke yesterday. He asked that doubters give the Government ten years before passing judgement, but even sympathetic doubters have legitimate grounds for asking if the scale of activity so far envisaged matches the scale of the problem outlined.

The Government is certainly doing everything it can to show it is in earnest in its attempts to provide pathways out of poverty. The emphasis placed on policies such as Welfare to Work and the drive to raise classroom standards, as well as the Govern-

ment's determination that ministers be held to account in these fields may be a solvent of early cynicism.

The Government is asking that it be judged on its ability to meet targets, in reducing dole queues and raising levels of literacy and numeracy. But in order to measure the real scale of the achievement it is important to know the baseline first. Before, for example, applauding government success in getting a quarter of a million of those between 16 and 25 off welfare and into work, it is worth bearing in mind that in the last year of the last Government nearly 200,000 in the same group managed the same feat unaided. Then again, their access to the labour market was not hindered by a minimum wage.

Mr. Mandelson was understandably at pains yesterday to show how the patchwork of New Labour policies would operate as both safety-net and spring-board but as well as showing existing policies to advantage he also unveiled a new one — the creation of a unit in the Cabinet Office to co-ordinate policies for poverty.

Mr. Mandelson is right to scorn the easy egalitarianism which holds that an extra pound or so in benefit is a passport out of dependency, but there are dangers in the brisk managerialism which holds that better policy co-ordination is the way to arrest social breakdown. More effective direction of state activity can certainly help the underclass, but so will an honest assessment of the social pressures which contribute to families fraying, and to the ethical decay which has eroded community feeling.

LAPTOP LOVERS

Sighs, blushes and winks have their digital analogues

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that a single man who logs onto the Net must be in want of a wife. The online union may not always be a match made in heaven, but it is close: today's Latharios are swarming in cyberspace. The Internet, that metaphysical world that increasingly determines human activity, has inevitably now left its printout on the most unpredictable organ of this ephemeral world, the human heart. Cupid's arrows are fired down fibre-optic lines. The *billie duet* has been replaced by e-mail, the midnight kiss by a grainy electronic photo and the roses of courtship by the bytes of computer capacity.

But Website dating is not as straightforward as data retrieval, and a thousand new customs and courtesies pave the pathway to Internet romance. Cyber-virgins are as prey to the wiles of unscrupulous keyboard Casanovas as any lady of virtue was in days of yore. To savour the rapture of what the perfumed modern can transmit, Heloise and Abelard must today know the rules of electronic etiquette as intimately as any 15th-century couple knew the conventions of courtly love. Sighs, blushes and winks all have their digital analogues. He who would valiant be must overcome his online inarticulation and win his lady with dazzling displays of Internet virtuosity.

Enter the Pandar to all romance, the agony aunt or "Net chick" as she is now known. It is her job to teach the do's and don'ts, to smooth the wounded *amour-propre* of the lover who has been squelched online and to introduce the Netiquette of today. America already professes such go-betweens, whose services can be flashed around the world in the twinkling of a log-on. They advise cybermates how to start a winsome conversation in a web-site's "public room". They teach the credulous to beware of beauties flashing their attributes in capital letters. And they warn the Emmas of today that Mr. Knightley is more often spelt without the K on a computer visiting card.

No one will deny the happiness that a private chatline can bring — the exhilaration of the log-on, the trembling typing of the message, the pounding of the electronic chase. Latter-day pen pals throw themselves into their new, invisible romance with all the passion and ardour of their Victorian forebears. Has not the computer revived the lost art of written communication, honed the nuances of language, kindled intimacy that is unaffected by pheromones? If those seeking love avoid *les liaisons dangereuses*, cyber-furtation can end in blissful cyberwedlock: a story as old as any that Jane Austen told in plain, printed English.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Warning of Blair's 'dangerous' power

From Lord Bethell

Sir, Campaigning for the Conservatives in Uxbridge last month, I naturally made the best I could of the fact that our candidate, John Randall, was the local man, whereas Labour's had been parachuted in from afar by the Prime Minister.

The argument was received surprisingly well on the doorstep and I think the people of Uxbridge taught the Prime Minister a lesson. This lesson is badly needed.

Mr Blair possesses dangerous powers. The European Parliament shows how they can be misused. In France, Spain and Greece the MEP candidates likely to win are those placed high on a list by the leader of each party. In return, the elected MEP gives his leader total loyalty. If he diverges from the leader's viewpoint, he is simply demoted or crossed off the next list and not elected again.

This is beginning to happen here. Labour leaders have always had the power to remove or impose candidates, but in the past they used it sparingly. In the run-up to May I Mr Blair used it widely and now he seems ready and able to use it to curb the expression of dissenting views, for instance over devolution.

The House of Parliament that revises Britain's draft laws is similarly threatened. In his election manifesto Mr Blair has said:

Our objective will be to ensure that over time, party appointees as life peers more accurately reflect the proportion of votes cast at the previous general election.

This means, in effect, that he would like to make the House of Lords a body of people wholly appointed by prime ministers, with his party holding a majority. We can be sure that this new majority of voting peers or senators, owing as they would their seats to Mr Blair's kindness, would vote slavishly for his bills.

The list system for European Parliament elections which Mr Blair plans to impose will strike another blow at local Labour parties' powers of selection. Who will decide who gets the best places on the Labour list in 1999? I do not know, but I can make a shrewd guess, and I gather that several long-serving Labour MEPs have already been given their marching orders.

I hope that rank-and-file Labour as well as the electorate will wake up to what is happening before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BETHELL
(President, Uxbridge
Conservative Association,
House of Lords,
August 13.

From Mr W. F. Elgin

Sir, We now know the next instalment in the remodelling of the British Parliament on the American prototype.

Blair's proposal to account to the nation annually (report, August 8) is obviously based on the US President's annual State of the Union address.

It would be appropriate if this were delivered on September 9, 1998, the 488th anniversary of the battle of Flodden, and entitled "State of Disunion". It would thus record the second major disaster in the history of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
W. F. ELGIN,
Beneil,
Edderston Road, Peebles,
August 8.

Simon's donation

From Mr Oliver A. W. Lodge

Sir, May I offer my congratulations to Lord Simon of Highbury on his generous charitable donations, and particularly his choice of charities? His, no doubt substantial, gift to Christ's Hospital, in Sussex (report, August 8), will help to some small extent to mitigate the damage done to the opportunities of young people by this Government's scheme of the Assisted Places Scheme.

It is a pity that his ministerial colleagues seem blind to the benefits which Lord Simon clearly appreciates.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER LODGE,
2 Nimrod Road, SW16,
August 9.

Sporting psalm

From Mrs B. C. Lewis Webb

Sir, It is Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady's metrical version of Psalm 42 which contains the words "when heated in the chase" (letters, July 25, August 1 and 11).

The Authorised Version of Psalm 42 reads: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

If Tate and Brady put the words in their hymn merely for the sake of the rhyme, there can be little harm in taking them out again.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA LEWIS WEBB,
Wayside, 24 King Street,
Wormington Common,
Reading, Berkshire,
August 11.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Gains and losses in Indian legacy

From Mr C. M. Bolt, CEng, MICE

Sir, Many people are recalling the formation of modern India and Pakistan 50 years ago. It is also surely a suitable time to review the positive developments achieved there in the century before 1947.

Of the many useful, costly and valued facets of the British legacy the most notable were the vast public works and forestry achievements.

By the 1870s the steady expansion of the railway system which became perhaps the largest in the world. By 1947, tens of thousands of miles of track and hundreds of bridges had been constructed. Likewise the combined road system had spread enormously.

From 1817, the steady expansion of irrigated agriculture from canals, many the size of the Thames at Westminster, had by 1947 reached 70 million acres. The racially integrated Indian Service of Engineers, formed and trained by British officials, was in charge of these huge, essential water systems.

They also developed four of the largest ports in Asia at that time — Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and Karachi — and scores of municipal power and water utilities as well as many other services. The achievements of the Forestry Service were world renowned.

The vital contributions of those public servants, on which subsequent progress has been based, may not have been fully enough reflected during the celebrations in 1947, though there is

now no shortage of Indian and Pakistani professionals who are aware of the origin of their infrastructural heritage.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. BOLT,
The Coach House, Aydon Road,
Corbridge, Northumberland,
August 14.

From Mr Rahat Z. Choudhury

Sir, More than 50 years ago *The Times* published details of the Bengal famine and last night Channel 4 television showed vivid pictures of the sufferings. There were a number of distressing aspects to *The Forgotten Famine* report.

I went to a public school in Pakistan from 1959 to 1962, where we were taught the history of England and particularly of the lives and wives of the English kings, but nothing about the partition of India nor the famine. I now know that what caused the destruction of lives was mainly the indifference of the British.

A few weeks ago we were told that the Prime Minister had apologised to the Irish for the famine between 1845 and 1850 (report, June 2). Do the Bengalis have to wait for another 50 years before the British Government acknowledges the callous acts in Bengal?

Yours faithfully,
R. Z. CHOUDHURY,
Zaman Choudhury & Co
(solicitors),
457 West Green Road, N15,
August 13.

Prelate and parish

From the Vicar of Houghton Regis

Sir, Earlier in his antipodean journey the Archbishop of Canterbury was yearning (report, July 26) to return to life as an "average" parish priest — although, like several on the episcopal bench, his years in ordinary parish life are remarkably few.

Now, however, in a sermon in New Zealand, he laments the trivia of parish life — flower rotas, organs and the bazaar — which, he says, can prevent the Gospel message from being relevant (report, August 9).

We must surely pray that the Archbishop does not return to parochial ministry, where life is gloriously full of both joyful and tedious trivia.

It is, indeed, life-in-trivia which makes the Church relevant — not the mateyness of banal liturgies, not the episcopal obsession with management, nor the liberalising of sexual ethics, nor the pagan innovation of women priests.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN REDVERS HARRIS,
The Vicarage,
Bedford Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire,
August 9.

Master class?

From Mr Geoffrey M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, How very sad that Sue Wilks, the Leeds University student who wishes to be awarded a Mistress of Arts degree (report, August 12), believes that, as a woman, she is unable to achieve mastery of her subject.

Surely history has proved her wrong. Many women have mastered arts, often better than their male contemporaries. Interestingly, many women lawyers in civil-law countries achieve the distinctive and genderless appellation of "Maitre" with justifiable pride. As to the word "Bachelor", the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* gives the meaning "a man or woman who has taken the first degree at a university" (cf Baccalaureate).

The question that remains, Sir, is this: is it appropriate for a university to award an arts degree to someone

Hard-pressed priests

From Mr Patrick Tierney

Sir, It is not unreasonable for the Foreign Office to refuse visas to five young, African, Roman Catholic priests studying in Belgium who were to provide holiday relief for hard-pressed British priests (report, August 12). It is not incumbent on that office to solve a problem the Church brings upon itself.

The Church has an available and ready resource of ordained priests with a vocation to serve but who are not allowed to exercise their ministry because they have married. I am sure many parish priests would willingly call on the services of these experienced men who, for instance, do not have the language difficulties that the African students may have. Also, women are excluded from the priest-hood simply because they are women.

The students should be invited to our parishes, helped financially and given the opportunity to work with experienced local priests, but they should not be expected to shoulder full parish responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK TIERNEY,
c/o 235 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels,
August 13.

who so perversely misunderstands their own language?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. BERESFORD HARTWELL,
40 Brambledown Road,
Wallingford, Surrey,
geoffrey@hartwell.demon.co.uk
August 13.

From Mr Andrew A. Chibi

Sir, I hope the University of Leeds strenuously resists Sue Wilks's challenge, for all of our sakes.

Isn't it bad enough that pandering to the politically correct brigade has allowed such dubious subjects as "feminist history", without having to further cheapen academic tradition with innuendo titles?

Yours, in the hope of academic sanity,
ANDREW A. CHIBI,
134 Southey Green Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
August 13.

Tasteless and useless

From Mrs Valerie Harden

Sir, Having just returned from a pilgrimage to Lourdes I can vouch for the authenticity of the Diary report (August 8) about the tasteless souvenirs.

Our hotel ran a competition similar to that organised by the BBC *Songs of Praise* crew detailed by your diarist. The winning item had to be tasteless and have no useful function whatsoever (unlike the Mother Teresa ash-tray).

The pink plastic model of the Grotto won.

Yours truthfully,
VALERIE HARDEN,
1 Penrith Close, Reigate, Surrey,
August 11.

Room at the top

From Dr M. L. H. Wise

Sir, Thank you for your report. "Top professions prefer 'Ivy League' graduates" (August 13), so uniquely defining both top professions (solicitors, barristers, merchant bankers, accountants and actuaries) and what is wrong with the country.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE WISE
(Chartered engineer),
137 Knightlow Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.
m.l.h.wise@bham.ac.uk
August 13.

Hotels on the Rhine

From Professor Roger Morgan

Sir, It is perhaps understandable, though unfortunate, that your report (August 6) on the German Government's plan to sell the Petersberg Hotel across the Rhine from Bonn, together with its accompanying picture of Hitler and Chamberlain's tête-à-tête, lays stress on the episode of Chamberlain's stay there in the run-up to Munich.

As well as the other events associated with the hotel mentioned by your correspondent, one might recall that the Petersberg was the site of the 1949 agreement which laid down new groundrules for co-operation between the Federal Republic and its Western allies, and of the important meeting of Western European Union ministers in 1992 which defined the WEU's "Petersberg task" of peacekeeping and humanitarian aid.

Also, your correspondent implies, and your caption explicitly states, that Chamberlain and Hitler met in the Petersberg Hotel: in fact Chamberlain, who was staying there, left it to make the symbolic pilgrimage across the Rhine to attend Hitler at the Hotel Dreesen, where he was staying.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER MORGAN
(Visiting Professor of Political Science, University of Bonn),
29 Burgh Street, N1.

Business letters, page 25

Distorting curve of crystal ball

From Mr Terence Lee

Sir, In your report today on the visit by Diana, Princess of Wales, to clairvoyant Rita Rogers, the latter is said by her literary agent to be "unery depressed" at the intense press interest. Surely she should have seen this coming?

Yours faithfully,
T. S. LEE,
48 Croyley Green,
St Paul's Cray, Orpington, Kent,
August 14.

From Mrs Wendy Bentall

Sir, A day or two before Diana, Princess of Wales, visited the great Rita, I was at the Puck Fair, in Co Kerry, consulting "the seventh daughter of the seventh daughter".

She correctly told me that I had crossed water and worked hard — not too difficult as I have an English accent and gardening hands. However, she said I had recently received diamonds (wrong), had illness in the family (wrong), was widowed (wrong), divorced (wrong). In desperation she then saw a lady between my husband and myself (wrong — I hope!).

Finally she said I was canny with my money, which was again off the mark since I had just squandered a fiver for this misinformation.

Yours faithfully,
WENDY BENTALL,
Runnymede, Sandpit Hall Road,
Chobham, Woking, Surrey,
August 14.

From Mrs Susan Burton

Sir, Your leader ("When were you born?", August 14) seems to have been confused by the distorting curve of the crystal, or perhaps it is that Cassius's physique bears an uncanny resemblance to that of the Princess.

What Cassius tells Brutus is that the fault "is not in our stars, / But in ourselves, that we are underlings." It was Caesar, who should have listened to the clairvoyant.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN BURTON,
29 Hitherwood Drive, SE19.

From Dr J. H. K. Pitton

Sir, As a most experienced observer of 60,000 patient-years of humanity (list size multiplied by years as a principal), I am delighted to announce my availability as prognosticator. If anyone cares to wend their way to my remote Northamptonshire dwelling I shall be pleased to offer my services for £80 per hour.

It is unfortunate that I failed to foresee my slipped disc, which is allowing me time to write this letter. However, I shall soon be able to resume my "free" consultations of six minutes or so, the subject matter of which, especially concerning the pampered under-45-year-olds, seems to have become ever more trivial.

Yours etc,
JOHN FITTON,
26 Cranford Road,
Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire,
August 14.

Castle car park

From the Director of Media Affairs, The Royal Collection Trust

Sir, Your Diary (August 4) suggests that Windsor Castle has "pulled up the drawbridge" on the issue of building an underground car park in its grounds. This trust, which is responsible for visitors to the castle, has not been badgered or even approached by anybody on the question of car parking.

The Long Walk, mentioned as a possible location for such a car park, is Crown Estate land and not a part of the castle. It would therefore be inappropriate for us to comment on the feasibility of such a proposal.

However, of the four million people who visited Windsor in 1996-97 only half a million visited the castle, of whom over 60 per cent arrived by coach or public transport.

Sincerely,
DICKIE ARBITER,
Director of Media Affairs,
The Royal Collection Trust,
Stable Yard House,
St James's Palace, SW1.

Clean getaway

From the Reverend John Ticehurst

Sir, Many thousands of us will this year have had a demonstration of how to put on a safety jacket in a plane; which red bit to pull, and the technological wonder of — wait for it — a whistle we may blow to call for help when floating around in the mighty ocean.

Nowadays a whistle wouldn't get a response in the middle of Oxford Street, let alone in the middle of the Atlantic. Yet I read (report, News in brief, August 9) that radio tracking devices are now so cheap that police are putting them in replica football shirts hanging on washing lines in the Gateshead area so that they may be found if stolen.

Might I suggest that the children's football shirts be fitted with whistles, and the airlines' safety jackets fitted with something actually useful?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TICEHURST,
The Manse at Wareham,
11 North Walls, Wareham, Dorset.
john.tang@btclara.net
August 13.

OBITUARIES

BILLIE STEPHENS

Billie Stephens, last surviving wartime escapee from Colditz, died at his home in Châteaufort de Grasse, France, on August 3, aged 85. He was born in Holywood, Northern Ireland, on August 9, 1911.

An RNR officer whose motor launch was sunk under him during the audacious St Nazaire raid of March 1942, Billie Stephens had escaped twice from German POW camps — and been recaptured — before successfully getting away from the supposedly escape-proof Schloss Colditz. The escape was the more remarkable because Colditz was situated in the heart of Saxony, more than 400 miles from any friendly frontier.

The breakout by four prisoners, led by Major Pat Reid, was carried out with the greatest coolness and after assiduous preparation (bars on windows, for instance, had been painstakingly loosened over a period of several days). At 8pm on October 14, 1942, after the evening Appell (or roll-call), the four squeezed through a window in the prisoners' kitchen, and climbed down to the inner courtyard below.

Since this was patrolled by a German guard it had been arranged that a prisoners' music practice, which had been carried on noisily for several nights previously, would be used to signal when the coast was clear. Keeping cover on this occasion was the legless Battle of Britain ace Douglas Bader, who had been a POW since being shot down over occupied France in 1941, and who after sojourns in various Stalags had been sent to Colditz to keep him quiet. Every time Bader saw that the sentry had turned his back, he ordered a pause in the music. This was the signal to Reid, Stephens and their comrades that there was an opportunity for one of them to slip across the yard. Eventually the



Prisoners of war reunited (from left to right): Billie Stephens and Pat Reid, who escaped from Colditz in 1942, and Jack Best, who organised the building of the escape glider

four men were safely across the lighted space and into the shadow of the wall on the far side.

Their ordeal was far from over. The outer courtyard had next to be negotiated, followed by a perilous passage across a lawn to the safety of a shrubbery. Finally they had to steal past the garrison barracks and climb the outer wall, which was luckily only 10ft high at the point they had selected, though topped with barbed wire. By 5.15 the following morning, after frequent pauses to lie low while sentry patrols barred their route, the four were finally over the wall and the

most, and at liberty. Even so, true freedom meant the Swiss frontier, 400 miles to the south.

They separated into two pairs, as arranged, Pat Reid teaming up with a Canadian RAF officer called Hank Wardle, and Stephens travelling with an army major, Ronnie Williams. With forged papers showing them as collaborationist French labourers travelling to work for the German war effort in southern Germany, Stephens and Williams made their way first to nearby Rochlitz station, from where they took a train to Chemnitz and thence to Stuttgart. From there

they made their way to Tübingen in Baden-Württemberg, where they left the train and walked for two days until they reached Singen, close to the Swiss frontier at the eastern end of Lake Konstanz.

Taking care to avoid Swiss frontier posts, since they had heard rumours that hostile Swiss guards had occasionally handed would-be escapees back to their German pursuers, they eventually stole across the border under cover of darkness. Their journey from Colditz had taken only five days; even so, Reid and Wardle, travelling by a different route, had beaten

them by 26 hours. All the men subsequently had what they described as a "royal welcome" at the British Legation in Bern.

William Lawson (Billie) Stephens was the son of a Belfast shipping agent and timber importer. He was educated in England at Shrewsbury School, after which he joined his father in the family business. A keen sailor from his childhood, he joined the RNR in the early 1930s and at the outbreak of war in 1939 he was called up and went into Coastal Forces.

A handsome, fair-haired man, with a Nelsonian nose, Stephens

had the buccaneering spirit which made him a natural Coastal Forces skipper. As such, for the St Nazaire raid he was chosen to command the leading motor launch, one of 15 that formed the bulk of the naval force covering the assault, during which the former US Navy destroyer *Campbelltown* rammed the main lock gates with a charge of explosives. This blew up the following morning, permanently disabling the great Normandie dock. This meant that the battleship *Tirpitz* could not be repaired, and was thus never able to operate as a commerce raider in the Atlantic.

Unfortunately, a prior RAF raid, which had been meant to suppress the shore defences, had succeeded only in waking up the German gunners. As a result, the attacking force came under heavy fire and suffered severe casualties in terms of men and small craft. Stephens's motor launch, which was keeping close station to port of *Campbelltown*, came under its share of the tremendous fire being aimed at the destroyer. Very soon the frail craft was badly holed and began to sink, at which point Stephens gave the order to abandon ship. His crew managed to scramble ashore, where a fierce battle was being waged between German defenders and the British commandos who had been sent ashore to set demolition charges.

Inevitably, the numerically superior defenders eventually got the better of their assailants, but not before desperate fighting which earned the attackers four Victoria Crosses. Of the 630 who had set out, only 271 returned to England, Stephens being one of those who passed into captivity. At the time of his transfer to Colditz he had spent several periods in "solitary" for previous escape attempts, one of which involved a daring leap from the train which was taking him and other indefatigable escapees to Colditz. On that occasion he had

managed to leap unobserved onto a train going to Chemnitz, but he was later discovered, arrested and dragged off to resume his passage to Colditz.

After his escape from Colditz, Stephens spent some months in Switzerland where he met his future wife "Chou-Chou", who was in charge of the safe-house in which he first lodged. But he wanted to return to England, and the journey through occupied France to the Pyrenees and the Spanish frontier had next to be attempted. He was always to say that it was more hazardous than the original journey from Saxony to Switzerland, and his tribulations were not over even when he reached the apparent haven of Spain.

Once there, like so many escaped prisoners, he was flung into a Spanish jail, where he might have languished indefinitely had it not been for his resourcefulness in bribing one of the guards, giving him his watch in exchange for being allowed to telephone the British Embassy in Madrid. Once his plight was known, his release was secured and he was soon on his way back to England.

For the rest of the war he served in shore appointments, before being demobilised in 1945. Pat Reid, who wrote the book describing various Colditz escapes, *Colditz Story* (1952, subsequently a BBC television series), died in 1990. At the time of the reunion pictured here, he and Stephens were the last surviving Colditz escapees.

Stephens returned to the family shipping firm in Belfast and was an active figure in other spheres of Northern Ireland's business life as chairman of the Northern Bank and the Northern Ireland Tourist Authority.

After retirement, he went with his wife to live in the South of France. She died several years ago. They had no children, though she had two sons from a previous marriage.

ALEC MUIR

Alec Muir, CBE, QPM, Chief Constable of Durham County Constabulary, 1950-70, died on August 11 aged 87. He was born on August 21, 1909.

ALEC MUIR was a true all-rounder. He was a classical scholar, a keen sportsman, a quiet intellectual family man who was nevertheless a forthright character, with a subtle wit, who could chair any committee or captain any team.

The youngest child of Robert Douglas Muir, a GP who died when the boy was only four, Alec Muir spent part of his childhood in south London and part in Broadstairs. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham.

A brother of the literary critic and editor Kenneth Muir, Alec was himself a good scholar. He was also an enthusiastic all-round sportsman, in particular a prop forward and subtle off-break bowler. Cricket remained a passion with him throughout his life. He was the sort of person to be made captain of the team (any team), not because of his own particular sporting prowess but rather for his qualities of leadership and general popularity.

In his teens he assumed that he would go into the Royal Navy — a family tradition — but he was dissuaded from this by his uncle, Lieutenant-



Commander A.T. Muir, who had been put on half-pay, a victim of the Royal Navy cutbacks of the 1920s.

Undaunted, in 1928 he won a scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford, to read Classics. He hoped to get a first at least in Greats and so to be able to pursue an academic career, but he followed a second in Mods with a second in Greats, and decided instead to sit the Civil Service examination. Although he did well, very few graduates were being recruited to the first division in the Depression years of the early 1930s, and he missed out.

After working temporarily as a civilian at Scotland Yard, he went to Lord Trenchard's Metropolitan Police College at Hendon in 1934 and subsequently joined the Met. He

said that his university education trained him to be a philosopher but, as there was not much call for philosophers, he became a copper instead.

He nevertheless retained his interest in philosophy and the Classics throughout his life, and 50 years on could still quote, off the cuff, the relevant passage of Horace when asked for the meaning and origin of the Royal Society's motto "Nullius in Verba" (Epistles 1.14). His enthusiasm for ancient civilisation got him into trouble on one occasion in his police career, when he suggested in 1969 that persistent violent offenders should be "quietly eliminated" and that "perhaps the Ancient Greeks had the answer with a dose of hemlock".

In 1950 he was appointed Chief Constable of Co Durham. In this role he sat on or chaired many national police committees. His interests were varied and ranged from police dogs and radar through convalescent homes to forensic science, never forgetting cricket. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1961, was appointed CBE in 1968, and served for many years as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Durham.

Innovative and unconventional, he rarely wore his uniform except when the assizes were in session or royalty visited the county, and

he used to take his children to school in the morning with a pair of old trousers and a threadbare sweater pulled on over his pyjamas — the sun-roof wide open even in freezing weather.

He was an enthusiast for the introduction of two-way pocket radios, which he saw would revolutionise policing, and he introduced Jaguars and then Mini Coopers as patrol cars for the Durham police, a far cry from the sedate Humber they replaced. More contentiously, he took the bold step of calling for troops to guard Durham prison in 1966, saying that he feared an attempt to free one of the Great Train Robbers by means of "a full-scale military attack" involving bombs, tanks and "battlefield tactical nuclear weapons". The Home Office swiftly disowned his remarks.

Generally, Muir kept his peace when he had nothing to say, but when he did speak his remarks were witty, funny and sophisticated.

In 1948 he married Helen Farr, née du Parc, who had two children by her first marriage. They subsequently had a daughter and son of their own. Strangely, he would never use the name Helen, which he hated because of the association with Helen of Troy, so he always introduced her simply as "my wife". She died in 1994, and he is survived by his four children and stepchildren.

JOHN GARNETT

John Garnett, CBE, former Director of the Industrial Society, died on holiday in Greece yesterday aged 76. He was born on August 6, 1921.

JOHN GARNETT was committed to social and economic progress through the reform of attitudes at the workplace, and constantly emphasised the benevolent aspects of commerce and industry. His aim was the creation of a compassionate society, but he knew that this must begin by creation of the wealth, with which to be compassionate.

The key elements in making industry more productive, he believed, were leadership at the point of work, regular appraisal by small teams of their achievements and targets and effective consultation. Everyone in industry, he preached, must recognise the shared common interest.

The son of Dr Maxwell Garnett and Margaret Lucy Poulton, William John Poulton Maxwell Garnett was educated at Rugby, Kent School in the United States, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where his father had been a prize fellow. During his first year at Cambridge, he read engineering, but his studies were interrupted by war service.

He joined the Navy in 1941, and served on the lower deck of a veteran battleship, *HMS Malaya*. The following year he was commissioned, and later commanded a small ship doing cloak-and-dagger work, transporting agents to and from France.

On his return to Cambridge he switched to economics. He also achieved success as a sculler and oarsman, winning the university single and double sculls and rowing in the Trinity Eight which won the Ladies' Plate at Henley Regatta in 1947. He was not a



particularly stylish oarsman, but he won races through physical strength, fitness and determination.

On graduation he worked in personnel management for ICI, which he described as "that good and great company", until 1962, when he was appointed director of what was then called the Industrial Welfare Society. While Garnett was director, the organisation changed its name to the Industrial Society, to reflect its broadening interests. He remained its director for 24 years.

The society had been set up

soon after the First World War, explicitly to improve industrial relations and the welfare of people at work. It was highly regarded by those familiar with its work, but it was a small organisation with limited influence. Under Garnett it expanded very considerably. He possessed exactly the gifts needed: he was honest, fair-minded and a good manager. He had a passion for communication both written and oral, and with people in all walks of life. He was a good listener as well as a good speaker.

His ideas were not necessarily original, and some regarded them as Utopian, but they were straightforward and he put them across persuasively. John Garnett was appointed CBE in 1970, but he probably gained as much satisfaction from the Royal Charter granted to the Industrial Society in 1985. By then the organisation had an annual turnover of nearly £6 million, and employed about 250 professional and support staff. It was engaged in an extensive and varied programme, which included visits to companies, in-company training, conferences, courses, and the exposure of large numbers of sixth-formers to its message.

Garnett also had several important outside commitments. From 1965 to 1971 he chaired the Churches' Council on Gambling. In 1968, he was involved in organising the "I'm backing Britain" campaign, which sought to stimulate ordinary men and women to do what they could to help Britain out of its economic difficulties. In 1972 he was a member of the three-man committee of inquiry chaired by Lord Wilberforce whose report brought to an end a protracted miners' strike. In 1985 he carried out an independent inquiry into allegations of ballot-rigging in the London and Home Counties region of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

When he retired from the Industrial Society in 1986, he was appointed part-time chairman of the West Lambeth Health Authority.

John Garnett was twice married. In 1943 he married Barbara Rutherford-Smith, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, one of whom is Virginia Bottomley, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister. That marriage was dissolved in 1985, and the following year he married Julia Cleverdon, the director of Business in the Community, by whom he had two daughters. His wife and six children all survive him.

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ST. PAUL'S BRIDGE SCHEME

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ON THIS DAY

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August 15, 1924

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125 Victoria

NEWS

Paedophile register 'flawed'

The Government was warned that the national sex offenders' register was fatally flawed after it emerged that probation officers are banned from giving addresses of paedophiles under their supervision to the police.

Instead it will be up to such offenders to contact the police to have their names put on the register before the middle of next month. Those who have received community punishments or are under supervision after release from jail are expected to give their addresses to their local police station. Page 1

Model claims Dodi is her man

Kelly Fisher, 31, a Californian model, claimed that Dodi Fayed had broken his promise to marry her. She is launching a legal action in Los Angeles today which could jeopardise his relationship with Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 1

Body recovered

A young woman's body dressed in a "baby doll" nightgown was recovered from the bottom of Coniston Water, prompting an investigation into a murder that could go back 30 years. Page 1

Underclass clash

Roy Hattersley clashed with Peter Mandelson over tackling Britain's "underclass" after the announcement of a new Whitehall taskforce to reduce social inequality. Pages 2, 17

Flash flood victim

The family of a nursery nurse from Warrington who is feared dead after a flash flood swept through a canyon in Arizona were waiting for news from rescue crews. Page 4

Diary of a duchess

The Duchess of York has written this week's *Spectator* diary. She received the standard fee of £100 and has not decided whether to give it to charity. Page 5

Fraser gathering

More than 12,000 members of the Clan Fraser started to arrive in Aberdeenshire from around the world for their first gathering in 46 years. Page 6

Legal victory

A couple who sued Lloyds Bank over a failed property venture won a seven-year legal battle when they were awarded £77,000 damages. Page 2

The Lord's work on Looe Bar

Cornish police are trying to move the German Schaffranek Evangelist cult from Looe Bar, a National Trust beauty spot near Penzance which is also the only breeding site of the sandhill trust moth. The cultists believe God has directed them to worship him there and respond to all attempts at discussion with "Do you have Jesus in your life?" Page 3

Vote for Dana

Dana, the former Eurovision song contest winner and Presidential hopeful, flew into Dublin from the Bible belt of Alabama to put God at the centre of the Irish Government. Page 8

Supreme sewers

The construction of London's sewers ranks among the boldest feats of an age of engineering adventure, our series on Victorian Britain asserts. They are still in good repair. Page 9

Back to Earth

Two luckless Russian cosmonauts ended one of the toughest missions mounted in space when they returned to Earth after six months of mishaps on the ageing space station Mir. Page 10

India's golden hour

India celebrated 50 years of independence with its President declaring that "this midnight hour is a golden moment in our history". Page 11, 16, 17

The rape of Rimini

Rimini, once a jewel of the Italian Adriatic coast, has become a resort of fear after beach attacks on young women and violence by illegal immigrants. Page 12

Eve's footprints

The oldest known human footprints, dating back 117,000 years and most likely female, have been found on the shores of a South African lagoon. Page 13



The audience at the National Film Theatre wearing 3-D glasses yesterday for a special showing as part of the Festival of Britain

BUSINESS

Orange: The newest of the four mobile phone companies is to double its network investment to £800 million to keep ahead in the customer recruitment war. Page 21

Outsourcing: Labour's enthusiasm for the private sector will help bring a tenfold expansion in the £2.5 billion market for public and private outsourcing. Page 21

Albert Fisher: The food manufacturing company is to put its seafood division up for sale after rejecting a takeover bid for the whole group from Chiquita. Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 2.3 points to close at 4991.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 100.7 to 101.8 after a rise from \$1.5802 to \$1.5870 and from DM2.8962 to DM2.9298. Page 24

SPORT

Football: Barcelona have renewed their interest in Steve McManaman, the Liverpool and England midfielder player. Bobby Robson, the Barcelona director of football, has been watching him in the past week. Page 40

Cricket: Glamorgan and Essex have fined Robert Croft and Mark Ilett £1,000 each after their on-field altercation during the NatWest Trophy semi-final. Page 40

Golf: Nick Faldo endured an unhappy first round at the US PGA Championship at Winged Foot in New York. He scored a 75, five over par. Page 40

Rugby union: Gregor Townsend is to stay with Northampton after rejecting offers from Bath and Cardiff. Page 37

ARTS

Spanish highs: Benedict Nightingale is stunned by the energy and technical bravura of *Blinded by Love*, which has travelled well from Catalonia to Edinburgh. Page 28

Combing the Fringe: Our critics travel the Edinburgh venues for the best shows, from naked Brazilian abandon to soul-baring comedies with tragedy in their punchlines. Page 28

Grateful dead: When rapper The Notorious B.I.G. was shot dead, his close friend Puff Daddy made a hit single out of it. Tacky or what, says Caitlin Moran. Page 29

Bible bashing: The Reduced Shakespeare Company has turned its reductive powers on the Bible, but some of the jokes make even a non-believer wince. Page 30

TECHNOLOGY

Antiques? There are examples in auction catalogues of objects said to be found together. But we have only the saleroom's word for it. Day two of a series. Page 14

Well-roomed: Homes magazines fill newsagents, decorating programmes vie with football for television supremacy and interiors designers are the new lifestyle gurus, says Nick Foulkes. Page 15

Pass masters: Why are educationists questioning the view that A levels are a gold standard? Ron McLone, an examination board expert, explains. Page 31

Up to scratch: To condemn A-level standards as falling is too glib, says Chris Ramsey. Page 31

TOMORROW

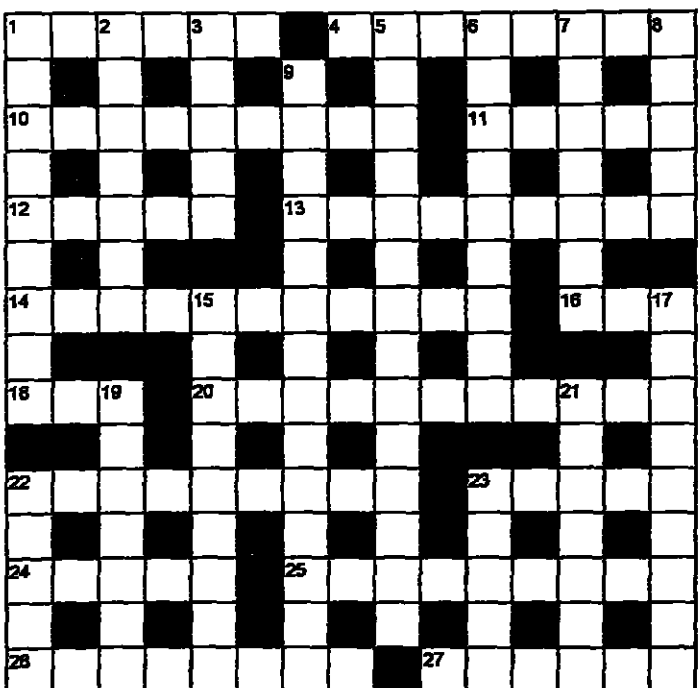
IN THE TIMES

MAGAZINE
Joely Richardson tells
Giles Whittell about
rebuilding her life after
the end of her marriage

CAR 97
We ride the R1200 C,
BMW's latest cruiser,
and offer readers
the chance to win one



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,559



- ACROSS
- One English author or another? Not quite (6).
 - A king joins one American statesman or another (8).
 - A private carrier, in the main (9).
 - Wreck joke - get the ending wrong (5).
 - Man given claret, perhaps, withholding tips (5).
 - The flower of youth? (9).
 - Getting English people into corrupt organisation (11).
 - An affair leads to trouble (3).
 - Side finally knocked out of cup's content (3).
 - Take a part in a word, when in disguise (11).
 - Colour discrimination (9).
 - Body with sound heart? (5).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,558
- DOWN
- Immediately confronted by predicament (2,3,4).
 - Show how novel could be a reference book (4,3).
 - Incomplete connection holding up plant (5).
 - Indirect account given in Hansard, for example (8,6).
 - One coming by post? (9).
 - Port as new as it's different (7).
 - African leader, say, in paper after uprising (5).
 - Who, in the main, goes from England to France? (7,7).
 - Duet bound to be moving? Sure (9).
 - Ignore the alarm bells (9).
 - A grouping of states (7).
 - Storm when nude's in paper? On the contrary (7).
 - Heard to cheer game (5).
 - Fold when one politician supports credit being cut (5).



Times Two Crossword, page 40

AN INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
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THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Anatole Kaletsky
says EMU offers no
easy way for pound
PAGE 25



EDUCATION
A levels: could
there be a
better system?
PAGE 31



SPORT
African masters
reign supreme
in the fast lane
PAGES 35-40

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 15 1997



MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP, above, came a step closer to claiming his £28 million bonus yesterday after the advertising company returned pre-tax profit of £78.3 million for the first half (Fraser Nelson writes).

The figures, a 15 per cent increase on last time, were fine with City forecast, fuelling expectation that the shares will break through the 300p trigger and release one of the largest bonus payments seen in British industry.

The shares eased 3p to 270p on profit-taking, but the company is still expected to make £176 million by the full year. Mr Sorrell said the company is concentrating on building up its presence in Latin America, but would

do so by speeding up organic growth rather than acquisitions. Earnings per share rose a sixth to 7.0p. The interim dividend is to be increased by 25 per cent to 0.7p, payable on November 24. Bean counter, page 22

Capita looks to boom in outsourcing under Blair

By CHRIS AYRES

THE enthusiasm of Labour under Tony Blair for the private sector will help to bring a tenfold expansion in the £25 billion market for public and private outsourcing, according to Capita, one of Britain's top ten outsourcing companies.

Capita, which specialises in both white-collar and blue-collar outsourcing contracts, is leading one of the three consortiums given the go-ahead this week to "shadow" state welfare operations for up to a year.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said that if any of the consortiums could demonstrate ways of providing better value for money or improving the quality of service, they could be offered a management contract.

EDS won a controversial £1.5 billion contract to subcontract much of the processing work for the Inland Revenue and has also won leading contracts for the Benefits Agency, which is part of the Department of Social Security.

Rod Aldridge, chairman of Capita, said: "This Government has already announced four major outsourcing initiatives. The driver is budget pressure and if the best solution to reduce budgets is public and private partnership then, I think they are going to be open-minded about it."

There is a huge market potential in outsourcing and because contracts are fixed over three, five or seven years, there is a huge visibility of earnings. At the moment we are bidding for a number of different things and hopefully there will continue to be a flow of new work from this company.

The Treasury is loath to put a value on the amount of business that government departments are to transfer to the private sector. "Outsourcing will grow where it is appropriate," said a spokesman. "If value for money for the taxpayer can be found by outsourcing then there will probably be an expansion in the market for such deals. But no one has ever said there will be any set increase and no one has set any targets or quotas."

Almost 40 per cent of Capita's business comes from local government contracts, al-

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	4991.3	(-12.5)
Yield	3.31%	
FTSE All share	2348.32	(-2.84)
Nikkei	19222.62	(+214.02)
New York		
Dow Jones	7946.90	(+18.58)
S&P Composite	925.66	(+3.63)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	6 7/8%	(6 7/8%)
Yield	6.58%	(6.58%)

STERLING

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

NEW YORK

Dollar	1.5855	(1.5837)
London	1.5867	(1.5833)
Paris	2.3025	(2.3044)
Frank	9.8112	(9.7588)
Yen	2.4158	(2.3832)
Yen	167.65	(162.59)
Index	101.8	(100.7)

ASIA

London	1.9422	(1.9350)
Frank	6.1895	(6.1800)
Yen	1.5198	(1.5115)
Index	117.79	(115.79)

TOKYO

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.40	(n/a)
Gold		
London close	\$326.15	(\$327.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Orange doubles spending to stay ahead of rivals

By ERIC REGULY

ORANGE, the newest of the four mobile-phone companies, is to double its network investment to £300 million before the end of the decade in an effort to keep ahead of its rivals.

Orange originally planned to invest £400 million before 2000 and the same amount after the turn of the century, but decided that improving its network quickly was the best way to attract customers in a market that is losing momentum. The accelerated spending will raise the total capital expenditure programme to more than £1.6 billion by 2000.

The spending will finance the construction of 3,100 additional transmission sites across the country, some of which will be disguised as trees and lamp posts, raising the total to 6,000. This is designed to improve the range and power of the signal coverage, giving better reception to users in buildings, rural areas and in cars.

Hutchinson Whampoa of Hong Kong and 21 per cent by British Aerospace. It began operations in 1994 and grew rapidly by offering an all-digital service with relatively inexpensive prices.



Snook: "superior coverage"

Ramsden faces bankruptcy trial

By ROBERT MILLER

TERRY RAMSDEN, one of the most flamboyant of the City high-flyers in the Eighties, is to face trial at the Old Bailey next April on 13 charges relating to his bankruptcy.

The trial of Mr Ramsden, who was once judged Britain's 57th richest man before becoming one of the biggest bankrupts with estimated debts of £100 million, comes after a lengthy international investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

The SFO inquiry, which was led by Andrew Jackson, an in-house lawyer, and the City of London police involved the United States, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Canada, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

The 13 charges relate to alleged failure by Mr Ramsden, who made his fortune in the 1980s trading in volatile Japanese equity warrants through his firm Glen International, to declare his assets to the trustees in bankruptcy. This included charges that he failed to disclose his ownership of approximately three million shares in Silversword Corporation.

At the height of his success Mr Ramsden was a noted racehorse owner and football club proprietor, Mr Ramsden, 45, left Britain earlier in the decade, but returned voluntarily last year when he was charged with the bankruptcy offences.

Albert Fisher plans sale after spurning US bid

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ALBERT FISHER, the food company, is set to put its seafood division up for sale after disappointing the market yesterday with the announcement that it has rejected a takeover bid for the whole group from Chiquita, an American banana supplier.

Fisher is believed to have rejected Chiquita's approach because it was unhappy that much of the offer was in shares rather than cash. News that the deal was off, combined with a warning that this year's profits will not grow and so will be below market forecasts, sent Albert Fisher's shares tumbling 11 per cent to 384p.

The group said the strength of sterling was having "continuing significant effects" on earnings. City analysts downgraded their forecasts for pre-tax profits excluding exceptional items for the year to August 31. Merrill Lynch shifted from £43.5 million to £40 million.

Clarke takes on his first City role

By ROBERT MILLER



Clarke: £18,000 a year

KENNETH CLARKE has landed his first City job - a non-executive directorship with Foreign & Colonial (F&C), the UK's oldest investment trust.

The former Chancellor, who will earn £18,000 a year at F&C, is following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Norman Lamont, who is on the board of Jupiter Asset Management's investment trusts.

In joining F&C, which was founded in 1868 primarily to invest in the new railways being built across America, Mr Clarke has avoided a controversial choice of outside work. F&C yesterday unveiled a 16 per cent rise in net assets to £2.1 billion in the six months to June 30 and lifted its half-time dividend more than 14 per cent to 0.80p.

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TIM 15/8 PEP

Drug blow for Xenova as loss deepens

By PAUL DURMAN

XENOVA, the drug development company, has suffered a delay with the cancer treatment that is its lead product because of side-effect problems.

The company, which joined the UK market last December, hopes to overcome the problems by giving its XR5000 drug via a slow 120-hour infusion, abandoning the three-hour administration that it had been testing in phase 2 trials. Even if the new approach succeeds, the drug is now unlikely to reach the market before 2001, about a year behind schedule.

Louis Nisbet, Xenova's chief executive, would not say what side effects are caused by XR5000. However, Xenova said it had not encountered similar problems in a phase 1 clinical trial of the drug using the 120-hour infusion.

Dr Nisbet said Xenova hopes to secure a partnership deal for one of its drugs before the year-end. Although he would not be drawn on which drug, one strong possibility is XR9051, which is intended to tackle drug resistance in cancer therapy. Novartis is working on similar products, prompting interest from other leading pharmaceutical companies.

In the six months to June 30, Xenova's research and development spending rose to £6.3 million (£3.8 million), raising its pre-tax loss to £5.9 million (£3.2 million loss), which it said was within budget.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.25	2.07
Austria Sch	21.80	19.94
Belgium Fr	65.70	58.74
Canada \$	2.33	2.15
Cyprus Cyp	0.90	0.85
Denmark Kr	11.74	10.55
Finland Mk	5.32	4.87
France Fr	10.34	9.31
Germany Dr	3.08	2.85
Greece Dr	4.88	4.47
Hong Kong \$	13.11	11.81
Ireland P	1.15	1.06
Israel Sh	85.70	78.74
Italy Lira	3039	2802
Japan Yen	201.50	184.40
Malta M	0.670	0.611
Netherlands Gld	3.48	3.13
New Zealand \$	2.63	2.38
Norway Kr	12.75	11.81
Portugal Esc	308.02	287.00
S Africa Rd	5.18	4.70
Spain Ptas	206.70	194.07
Sweden Kr	13.15	12.49
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.05
Turkey Lira	270.10	250.25
USA \$	1.69	1.53

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Bean counter shows Saatchi the way

Fraser Nelson on the successful head of WPP who admits to knowing little about advertising

FOR a mere "bean counter", Martin Sorrell has delivered an entertaining performance as a baron of the glitzy, bitchy world of advertising.

Since he split from Saatchi & Saatchi 11 years ago, he has built WPP from a supermarket trolley producer to a world advertising force. But on the way he almost destroyed his empire by taking on crippling debts, only to resurrect it and put himself on the way to pocketing a £28 million incentive.

A glance at yesterday's half-year results shows that Sorrell is now beating the Saatchi brothers at the game they taught him in the 1970s. Although he ranks with Lord

Saatchi and his elder brother, Charles, as one of the most powerful men in advertising, Mr Sorrell and the Saatchis have always sung from different hymn sheets.

Mr Sorrell is an intensely private person. He owns a house in the same area of North London where he has lived for 26 years, while Lord Saatchi has three palatial homes in Mayfair, Sussex and the South of France. Mr Sorrell is driven to work in a Ford Scorpio. Lord

Saatchi favours Jaguars and Rolls-Royces. Little is known of his hobbies outside spending time with his family and cricket. Lord Saatchi — who once spent £5,000 of his company's money on flowers in a year and is married to the novelist Josephine Hart — still fills the showbusiness columns. Mr Sorrell and the Saatchis met in 1974, and instantly got on. In five years, he had become group finance director and

with Sir Tim Bell for the title of the Third Saatchi brother.

In 1986, he decided to bail out and buy WPP. He felt that there was demand for a global advertising agency. His first move — a £350 million bid for J Walter Thompson — was one of the most audacious bids the City had ever seen. His management style was again diametrically opposed to the Saatchis. While they claimed personal credit for

some of their agency's best-known slogans, Sorrell claims to know virtually nothing about the trade except how to manage, and count its profits.

When the recession came, both companies suffered. Sorrell fought hard, keeping an iron grip on his business. The Saatchis invited in an outsider, who eventually ousted them from the group they founded.

But while Sorrell is on the way to his £28 million jackpot, the Saatchis are believed to be worth £200 million. However, ironically, most of their money comes from their investment in Adidas, not from advertising.

Imro sets up pilot scheme to monitor City bonuses

By ROBERT MILLER

SIX FUND managers have been selected to take part in a confidential trial with a City watchdog to find a method of linking bonus payments to stricter monitoring and compliance systems.

Imro, the regulator of fund managers, has asked the fund managers to test a code of practice that would ensure executive bonuses were awarded on good "compliance" practices as well as performance.

In previous City scandals, such as the Peter Young unit trust affair at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Nick Leeson at Barings, huge bonuses were paid out, and never clawed back, purely on the back of bogus profits.

This led to angry investors claiming that managers and executives were more concerned with securing annual bonuses than they were with compliance issues.

Now Imro is testing a scheme where everybody in the compliance chain responsible for monitoring investors' funds, and how they are managed — from the manager right up to the most senior executives, are confident that all the rules are being obeyed.

For some time soaring bonuses in the Square Mile have been a concern to City watchdogs, including the Bank of England. In some

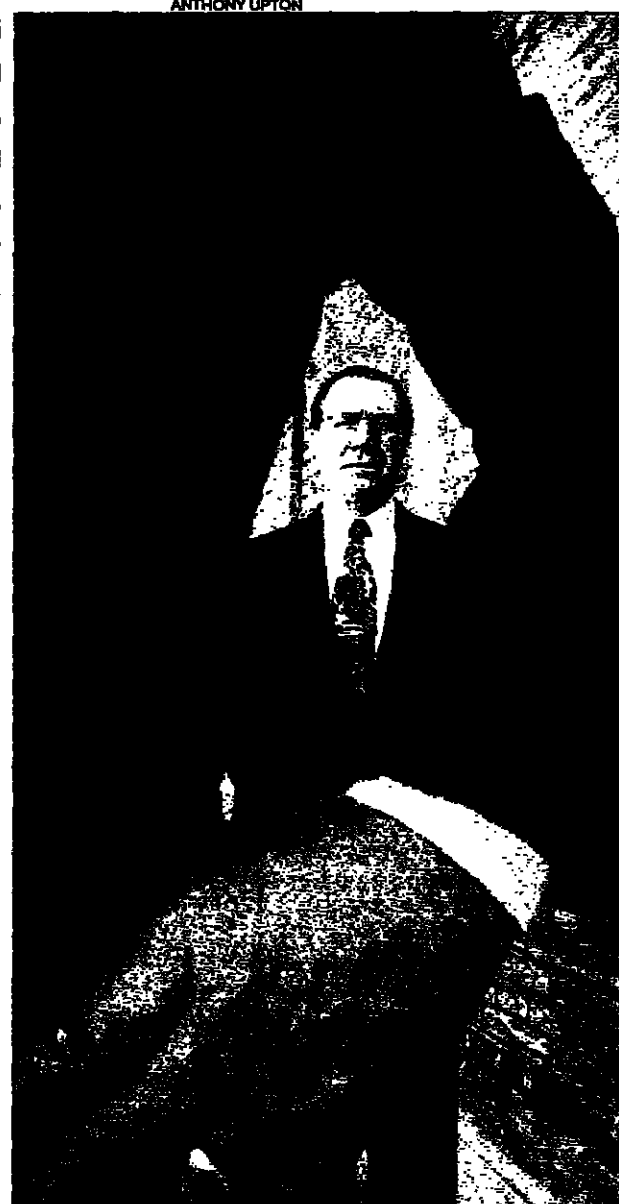
cases certain investment houses and banks have been paying more than £1 million to relatively junior traders with their bosses earning packages of up to £6 million in a single year.

The regulators argue that building up so-called "star" managers and traders could lead to a relaxation of compliance standards as they chase ever-rising bonuses.

If the Imro trial is successful a pilot project involving more firms could be under way within a matter of months and a similar system could be adopted by Newco, the new super-regulator, which is headed by Howard Davies, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Philip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, told *The Times*: "We are indebted to the likes of Nick Leeson and Peter Young for illustrating the substance of our thesis, that compliance responsibilities are a matter for everyone in a business. Equally, the systems for reporting compliance issues must extend to everyone, and be understood by everyone, from the chief executive officer to the trader on the dealing desk."

Mr Thorpe added: "Firms that understand and adopt these views, and comprehensively manage their operational risks, will be the winners, as will their customers."



Martin Waters says investments are showing returns

Micro Focus recovers

SHARES in Micro Focus, the Anglo-American computer software and services group, rose from £19.40 to £20.97 after the company revealed a recovery from losses of £14.3 million (£9.4 million) to net income of £5.3 million in the six months to July 31 (George

Sivell writes). Net income per share was 0.33 cents (0.94 cents loss). Total revenue was \$67.4 million (\$52.3 million). Again there is no dividend. Martin Waters, president and chief executive officer, said: "Our investments are beginning to provide returns."

Freepages' losses ease as sales grow 255%

By CHRIS AYRES

FREEPAGES, the upstart rival to Yellow Pages which continues to be popular with investors despite making heavy losses, yesterday reported a 255 per cent rise in third-quarter sales, from £1.4 million to £4.8 million.

The company said that its classified advertising sales had risen by 35 per cent, from £4 million to £5.4 million, and that the number of calls to its telephone service had tripled to 2.1 million. Its pre-tax losses fell slightly, from £2.6 million to £2.4 million, along with operating losses, which fell from £2.6 million to £2.2 million.

A new national call centre employing up to 400 staff will be opened next month by Freepages in Telford, to support anticipated demand.

Other developments over the past three months have included a redesigned Internet site, a commercial fax and e-mail service, and a contract with the English Tourist Board to distribute two million Freepages wallet cards through tourist information centres.

Freepages has also launched its service in The Netherlands, where it is called Scoot, which it says has been well received by consumers and advertisers.

Robert Bonnier, the 27-year-old chief executive, said: "We've only been operational in the UK for two years and during that time we have made substantial investment while keeping incredibly conservative accounts. We have seen a significant fall in operating loss this period and we will start to move into profitability next year."

Scottish Media lifts stake in Ulster TV

SCOTTISH MEDIA yesterday raised its stake in Ulster Television, one of the smallest ITV companies, to 14.9 per cent in what the City said was a defensive move. It paid about £14 million to buy 6.9 million Ulster TV shares at 205p each. Its previous stake was 1.9 per cent. Andrew Flanagan, managing director of Scottish Media, said he regards Ulster TV as an investment, but would not rule out a takeover down the road. Scottish Media intends to raise its stake to 29.9 per cent if it can find institutions willing to sell at the same price.

Analysts said Scottish Media's move was probably triggered by the rapid consolidation of the ITV market. The purchase of Ulster TV, they said, would secure Scottish Media's position as the largest regional ITV player. Mr Flanagan said: "We believe in regional identity. There are strong cultural links between Northern Ireland and Scotland." Ulster TV reported pre-tax profits of £8.2 million last year. Scottish Media shares closed unchanged at 642½p.

Walters sells shares

ROBERT WALTERS, founder and chief executive of the Robert Walters recruitment agency, has sold part of his stake in the group for £5.8 million. He sold 1,949,337 shares, 8.4 per cent, yesterday at 299p per share, leaving him with 4,516,105 shares, or 19.6 per cent. In the past, Mr Walters has said that he does not intend to sell up completely. A spokesman said that the directors had come under pressure from institutions to sell some of their holdings because the stock is so illiquid. A number of other directors have also sold holdings.

New jobs at Littlewoods

LITTLEWOODS, the privately owned pools to retail group, is creating 300 jobs in the next 12 months at its customer service centre in Sunderland. The company said the hirings are in response to a high uptake of its *Index Extra* catalogue and to high sales from its traditional agency catalogue. The group has laid off a large number of people in its pools business, which has been hit by the National Lottery, while up to 1,800 jobs in its high street shops are to go after the sale of 19 stores to Marks & Spencer.

Graystone talks progress

GRAYSTONE, the engineering group, said that talks continue over an approach, announced on July 16, that may lead to an offer for the company. It also said negotiations for the sale of its engineering companies were at a point where one proposed bidder had exclusive negotiating rights with a view to exchanging contracts "at a price consistent with the board's expectations" by September 30. Graystone shares rose 1½p to 81½p, valuing the company above £32 million.

Therapeutic losses grow

NET losses deepened at Therapeutic Antibodies, the pharmaceutical group, from \$7 million (£4.4 million) to \$8.6 million in the first six months of the year after expenses rose from \$7.5 million to \$9.45 million. Research and development expenses rose to \$5.5 million from \$3.95 million. Net losses per share fell from 42 cents to 38 cents because the number of shares in issue increased. The shares fell from 308p to 307p. The company received a \$62,000 fee for its Australian Brown snake anti-venom.

TV Corp wins cup deal

TELEVISION CORPORATION, the TV production and outside broadcast company, announced that it will be supplying coverage of Arsenal and Aston Villa UEFA Cup football matches to Channel 5 this year, in addition to Chelsea's games in the European Cup Winners' Cup. The company, run by Terry Bate, former head of Radio Caroline, would not disclose the size of the contract, which will depend on the clubs' progress in the competition.

Media Business thrives

MEDIA BUSINESS, the agency, raised pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £1.5 million in the year to April 30, on sales up 24 per cent to £134 million. Earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 0.42p a share, out of which the total dividend rises 16.7 per cent to 0.105p. The company says that its gross billings rose 26 per cent to £155 million, ahead of British 1996 advertising growth of 9.2 per cent. The group is offering a one for ten share consolidation and the shares fell from 94p to 84p.

Jacobs Holdings slips

SHARES in Jacobs Holdings rose 4½p to 100p after the transport group suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £1 million, caused by a steep rise in interest charges and a £650,000 rationalisation charge for the £34 million Rover acquisition. Sales rose 8 per cent to £30 million. The half-year dividend rises 3 per cent to 0.5p a share out of earnings down from 2p to 0.8p. Jacobs expects progress in the second half on its new freight ferry service from Dartford to Zeebrugge.

£100,000 pensions fine

THE Personal Investment Authority fined the M&E Network of Greatminster House in Horsforth, Leeds, £100,000 and delivered a reprimand for its failure to carry out a review of pension transfer and opt-out business. In particular, the firm delayed the making of pension review questionnaires to clients, an essential first step in the review process. M&E, which operates a network of 646 advisers, was also ordered to pay £25,000 administrative costs over the failures.

MAID buys stake in search firm

By FRASER NELSON

MAID, the on-line information company, has bought a majority interest in Muscat, a database search engine company, for £5.56 million. The company said the acquisition will give it the tools needed to install its own InfoSoft search engine on any personal computer and speed the use of its own database systems.

The acquisition is also intended to help it to bolster its presence in the corporate intranet market. MAID's growth has brought it to the attention of larger rivals and the City believes that it may be the subject of a bid.

The company stemmed its pre-tax loss to £93,000 (£91 million loss) in the six months to June 30, after lifting the number of subscribers from 3,800 to 5,000.

Dan Wagner, chief executive, said the company had already set up the cost base needed to administer the extra accounts in the previous quarter, allowing the fresh subscription funds to go straight to the profits.

Its distribution costs fell by 10 per cent to £2.7 million over the period, as sales jumped to £2.25 million (£1.71 million).

He said the company should break into profit by the end of next month, and say in the black from then on. Losses ran to 0.42p a share (2.06p loss). There is no dividend.

Tempus, page 24

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT			
	Year ended 30 June 1997	Year ended 30 June 1996	At 30 June 1997
Revenue	8000	8000	At 30 June 1996
Income from investments	22 369	18 975	151 285
Surplus on realisation of investments	1 478	6 531	135
Interest received	755	270	929
Sundry revenue	21	19	12 461
	24 021	25 793	8 058
Expenditure and amounts written off	21 236	4 630	4 411
Administration	2 575	2 157	11 540
Exploration expenses	1 271	3 276	152 347
Interest paid	1	197	88 425
Amounts written off	17 389	197	63 922
Profit before tax	3 385	21 163	152 347
Tax	3 385	21 163	498 534
Profit after tax	31	82	148 522
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	3 416	21 237	190 007
Less:	3 322	21 208	36 347
Dividends declared	15 930	15 930	35 071
Interim 17c (17c)	5 208	5 208	1 276
Final 15c (15c)	10 722	10 722	
Transfer (from) to reserves	(12 608)	5 270	
Unappropriated profit carried forward	94	31	
Earnings per share	cents	cents	
Headline earnings per share	cents	cents	
Dividends per share	cents	cents	
	times covered	times covered	

NOTES:

1. Headline Earnings

Headline earnings are stated after the exclusion of the amounts attributable to members in respect of surpluses on the realisation of strategic investments and amounts written off investments. Increased dividend income, principally from Western Deep Levels Limited and Zinc Corporation of South Africa Limited and a decrease in exploration expenditure largely offset a reduction in surpluses on realisation of investments, resulting in headline earnings being relatively unchanged from the previous year.

2. Amounts Written Off

In accordance with prudent accounting policy the carrying value of the investment in Northern Platinum Limited has been written down to the market value at 30 June 1997.

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 93 of 35 cents per share in respect of the year ended 30 June 1997 has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 29 August 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 1 October 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 30 September 1997.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 24 August to 5 September 1997, inclusive.

Head Office and Share Transfer Office:
75 Fenchurch Street
London EC3A 3DF
Republic of South Africa

By order of the Board
per GOLD FIELDS LIMITED
Corporate Services Limited
London Securities
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

GOLD FIELDS GROUP

14 August 1997

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) is a body corporate established under the Companies Act 1948. It is a company limited by guarantee and its registered office is at One Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Institute is a member of the Association of Accounting Bodies (AAB) and is a recognised body for the purposes of the Companies Act 1948. The Institute is a member of the Association of Accounting Bodies (AAB) and is a recognised body for the purposes of the Companies Act 1948. The Institute is a member of the Association of Accounting Bodies (AAB) and is a recognised body for the purposes of the Companies Act 1948.

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Reid the writing on the wall



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sears has its own unique approach to business. This is the conclusion of people who thought they might do the group a favour and take a few hundred shoe shops off its hands. "Too soon," they are being told. "We are not ready yet."

It seems that, although the company's director has been called in, the patient wants to edge a little closer to death before accepting treatment. The bankers at JP Morgan have been brought in to prepare a sales memorandum on three of the group's shoe chains, but, apparently, a decision on whether to go ahead and sell will only be taken at the board meeting to be held at the end of this month. Presumably the bank will not be aggrieved if the group chooses to hang onto the stores, for it will still collect a fee. Sears shareholders, however, would have one more reason to feel that their company's idiosyncratic brand of commerce does not serve their interests well.

It was April when David James was handed the brief of trying to salvage part of the wreck of Liam Strong's reign. He may be dashing around like a dervish within the business, but shoe sales remain dismal. And the danger is that the board's evident reluctance to take decisions may jeopardise the rest of the Sears operations.

For who is running the shop? Mr James is charged only with dealing with the shoe shops. Sir Bob Reid has had a dreadful record as chairman, and he is even less well qualified for taking day-to-day control of the group, which includes Selfridges and assorted fashion chains. It is all very well disposing of one chief executive, but eventually someone needs to take over the job.

In a company where morale has already taken a battering, the lack of leadership can only inflict further damage. There is a potential internal candidate for the chief executive role, someone, it is said, who is foolhardy or brave enough to cover the job. Insiders fear that if Derek Lovelock, who currently heads the womenswear division, is not promoted, he may be tempted to look elsewhere.

Sears is shrouded in uncertainty: will it be allowed to off-load the ever-deteriorating Freemans mail order business? Will it be able to float off Selfridges before the stock market collapses? To leave the question "Who is in charge?" unanswered seems unnecessarily cruel.

If Sir Bob believes that he has

his hand on the tiller, then he should take warning from the example of Sir Desmond Pitcher. Sears shareholders have at least as much reason for displeasure with the performance of their chairman as the investors in United Utilities in theirs.

No longer is the Sears share price "always a pound". The former BR boss has taken it to 62p.

Hush Puppies with a big bark

Kenneth Clarke more than most ought to know how onerous the role of non-executive director should be in the wake of all those well-intentioned pronouncements on corporate governance. Nevertheless, the former Chancellor has made a shrewd move, opting to sign up with Foreign & Colonial

Investment Trust. Shrewd because since 1868 F&C has been providing first-time, as well as more experienced investors, with a perfect vehicle with which to venture into the stock market. Investors who entrusted £1,000 to F&C in 1970 would have £34,875 at the end of June this year, assuming they had reinvested the dividends. Inexperienced stock market punters would have been relying on an exceptionally generous lady luck to beat that performance.

But Clarke is bravely striding into F&C in his Hush Puppies at a time when the investment trust sector needs all the fans it can get. Doom-mongers are predicting the end of the movement because the shares are currently trading at a discount of between 12 per cent and 14 per cent to the value of the investments held in the underlying portfolio. This is

not as bad as it might seem: ten years ago, the discount stood at 25 per cent. Go back 20 years and it was 30 per cent.

But, even if it is not as sick as it looks, the trust sector does have its problems and they are largely of its own making. The management contracts are very often far too cosy with the emphasis on protecting the manager rather than the investor. Management fees, although coming down, are still regarded as very generous when compared with those received by professional pension fund managers. Then there is the vexed question of split level trusts. Many of these have hugely complex structures with little chance of making the returns hinted at to investors. Those trusts' life spans are reaching the end: now the investment trust movement should opt for simplicity, preferably with

one class of share — either income or capital.

The former Chancellor will be well placed to emphasise the virtues of keeping costs down and striving for simplicity. To earn his keep as a non-executive director, he should do so, and loudly.

Navigating away from black holes

The bonus culture of the City has been bemoaned by salaried folk from the Bank of England, Parliament and the press. Now Imro has had a bright idea to try to align bonuses to good behaviour. It will be fascinating to see how enthusiastically the plan is leapt upon in the Square Mile.

In theory, financial institutions do not dole out extra cash to those who break the rules. In practice, however, schemes generally work on the basis of rewarding performance measured merely on the figures. Compliance is a different matter, and someone else's responsibility.

The rash of scandals and black holes that has broken out in the

City has undoubtedly encouraged firms to look more closely at how the rules are policed. What Imro wants is to see bonuses tied not merely to the figures, but to compliance as well.

This may be admirable in principle, but not so impressive in practice. If individual traders are to be marked on the compliance before they get their loot, then it is hard to see why the process should result in any change in the black hole quotient. After all, compliance officers are already on patrol. So are individuals to be asked to fill in forms, ticking the boxes all the time to indicate that they are sticking to the rules?

On that basis, Nick Leeson might well have been able to swell his bank accounts quite considerably more than he did.

Short hop

MARTIN SORRELL has achieved a remarkable turnaround at WPP, fighting back from the brink to make the company a world-class act in advertising and marketing. But when he talks of expanding into consultancy, it occasions just the slightest shudder in those with long memories. The Saatchis, when bored with being admen, moved towards consultancy, and it was just a short hop from that to think they might buy a bank.

Glynwed closes pipe deal

By MARK COURT

GLYNWED International, the Aga cookers to construction products group, yesterday announced the £23.67 million (£15.07 million) acquisition of a pipe distribution business on the East Coast of the United States.

Industrial Plastics Technology was bought by Harrington Industrial Plastics, Glynwed's US subsidiary, in a deal that will make Harrington the biggest US supplier of industrial plastic pipes.

The market reacted favourably to the deal, which came just two days after Glynwed's interim results and which saw the company's shares end the day 12½p up at 247½p.

But the City would like the pace of disposals at the company to be speeded up. One analyst said: "This deal will give them a stronger presence in the US but it is not material. They are quite good at buying businesses but they have never really sold any of the low-quality businesses, with the exception of Wednesbury Tube."

Hanson plans expansion of Cornerstone 'over there'

By PAUL DURMAN

HANSON, the building materials group that has emerged from the former conglomerate, is looking to expand Cornerstone, the US aggregates business that is currently its fastest-growing business.

Cornerstone, which in April paid £78 million for Concrete Pipes and Products, contributed operating profits of £26.9 million to Hanson's half-year total of £121 million. Stripping out the effect of the stronger pound, Cornerstone's profits were almost a third higher.

Andrew Dougal, Hanson's chief executive, said these "excellent" results were helped by new investment and margin improvements, but were based on the continuing strength of the US economy. Cornerstone, also, expects to benefit from a £23 billion infrastructure spending programme recently agreed by the US Government.

Mr Dougal and Chris Collins, the deputy who succeeds Lord Hanson as group chairman at the end of the year, said they saw significant scope to expand Cornerstone geographically as the US industry consolidates. Cornerstone al-



Built-in profits: Andrew Dougal, left, chief executive of Hanson, with Alan Murray, the finance director

ready claims a better spread of business than its rivals.

Helped by price rises and the strengthening housing and commercial building markets, ARC, the UK aggregates business, increased operating profits by 6 per cent to

£45.4 million, while Hanson Brick lifted profits by 18 per cent to £20.7 million.

Hanson reported interim pre-tax profits of £96.9 million, reduced to £47.8 million after £49.1 million of deductions, including the loss on the

£145 million sale of its electricity business. It gave no prior year comparison.

Hanson said that the pace of the UK recovery had flattened in recent weeks, and is concerned that the Government has cancelled and delayed

road-building programmes. But Mr Dougal said that he was very optimistic about the outlook for its operating companies. An interim dividend of 4p is due October 24.

Tempos, page 24

Health care group cuts back on beds

By MARK COURT

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home to drug rehabilitation group, intends to sell up to 15 per cent of its beds to help to fund a £70 million acquisition spree.

Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive, unveiled his plans as he announced a 14 per cent rise in full year pre-tax profits to £20 million.

But more than £6 million was wiped off the figure after an abortive hostile bid for rival Goldsborough and subsequent reorganisation costs.

Mr Carter indicated that the decline in the nursing home sector has levelled out.

He said: "We seem to be able to see the shape of the

floor now. Occupancy levels are stabilising."

Even so the company is stepping up its diversification plans so that only half of its profits come from the nursing homes sector by 2000.

Mr Carter said: "We set out this year to get more than 20 per cent of profits from outside nursing homes and we got 22 per cent. We are looking at 30 per cent in the current year and so on until we get a more balanced business." Funding for acquisitions is likely to come in part from selling about 500 nursing home beds to raise about £15 million.

A final dividend of 4p (3.65p) will be paid on October 3.

MDIS reduces losses

By ADAM JONES

MDIS, the troubled computer services company formerly known as McDonnell Information Systems, reported a £3.9 million loss before tax yesterday for the first half of 1997. The deficit compares with £9.2 million in 1996.

Turnover rose from £51.2 million to £54.4 million. The

shares, which rose from 32½p to 34p, have performed disastressously since floating at 260p in 1994.

They were suspended earlier in the summer when MDIS was unable to refinance in time to release its annual accounts, which revealed a £49.5 million pre-tax loss for 1996.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	Year ended 30 June 1997	Six months ended 30 June 1996
Revenue	15 997	6 219
Income from rent and sale of property	15 997	6 219
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	9	494
Interest received	1 307	533
Gold royalties and income from other sources	847	462
Income from investments	1 132	462
Expenditure	19 292	9 708
Administration	5 062	2 451
Interest paid	51	16
Amount written off	138	-
Profit before tax	14 061	7 341
Tax	5 889	2 854
Profit after tax	8 172	4 487
Unappropriated profit/(Accumulated loss) brought forward	153	(11 937)
	8 325	2 450
Less:	8 236	2 297
Dividends declared	6 646	3 067
Interim 2½c (Nil)	2 536	-
Final 40c (30c)	4 090	3 067
Transfer to/(from) reserves	1 590	(770)
Unappropriated profit, carried forward	89	153
Earnings per share - cents	80	43
Dividends per share - cents	65	30
	1.2	1.4

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	At 30 June 1997	At 30 June 1996
Fixed assets	66 976	67 456
Investments	12 210	12 085
Land and township development	3 857	3 983
Net current assets	6 164	3 404
Current assets	16 177	9 693
Cash	12 619	6 138
Other	2 144	808
Less current liabilities	10 013	6 289
Share capital	89 207	86 928
Reserves	84 984	83 458
	85 240	83 714
Deferred liabilities	3 967	3 214
	89 207	86 928
Investments		
Listed		
- Market value	33 642	45 472
- Excess over book value	21 434	33 390
- Book value	12 208	12 082
Unlisted		
- Book value	2	3
Shares in issue unchanged at 10 224 350		
Net asset value per share - cents	1 631	1 664

NOTES:

Change of Year End

As a result of a change in the company's financial reporting period from 31 December to 30 June last year the comparative figures reflected in this report cover the six month period ended 30 June 1996.

Disposal of the Major Shareholder's Interest

Negotiations for the sale by the major shareholder of its interest in this company with two potential purchasers are well advanced. The outcome of these negotiations is expected shortly.

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 149 of 40 cents per share in respect of the year ended 30 June 1997 has been declared in South African currency payable to members registered at the close of business on 29 August 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 1 October 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 30 September 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 30 August to 5 September 1997, inclusive.

Head Office and Share Transfer Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greencoat House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

By order of the Board:
per pro GOLD FIELDS
CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretary
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	Year ended 30 June 1997	Six months ended 30 June 1996
Revenue	20 995	5 951
Income from investments	20 995	5 951
Surplus on realisation of investments	117	642
Interest received	2 144	808
Sundry revenue	21	10
	23 277	7 411
Expenditure	9 965	235
Administration	1 425	725
Amount written off	8 540	-
Profit before tax	13 312	6 686
Tax	304	25
Profit after tax	13 008	6 661
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	17	14
	13 025	6 675
Less:		
Dividends declared	12 875	5 518
Interim 2½c (Nil)	4 598	-
Final 45c (30c)	8 277	5 518
Transfer to reserves	100	1 140
Unappropriated profit carried forward	70	17
Earnings per share - cents	71	36
Headline earnings per share - cents	117	30
Dividends per share - cents	70	30
	1.7	1.2

NOTES:

1. Change of Year End

As a result of a change in the company's reporting period from 31 December to 30 June last year, the comparative figures reflected in this report cover the six month period ended 30 June 1996.

2. Headline Earnings

Headline earnings are stated after the exclusion of the amounts attributable to members in respect of surpluses on the realisation of strategic investments and amounts written off investments. Earnings were boosted by substantially increased dividends from Zinc Corporation of South Africa Limited which achieved excellent operating and financial results in the year to June 1997.

3. Amounts Written Off

In accordance with prudent accounting policy the carrying value of the investment in Northam Platinum Limited has been written down to the market value at 30 June 1997.

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 101 of 45 cents per share in respect of the year ended 30 June 1997 has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 29 August 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 1 October 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 30 September 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

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Secretary

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Second liners enjoy the best of a lacklustre day

SECOND line stocks saw the best of a lacklustre day's trading as profit-taking and a futures-led sell-off took the FTSE 100 back below 5,000. Early gains that pushed the market up more than 28 points evaporated in the afternoon in spite of Wall Street's more confident opening. By the close the FTSE 100 stood at 4,991.3, down 12.3, while the FTSE 250 held steady to end at 4,689.9, up 12.9.

Orange, the mobile phone group, provided one of the few bright spots. The shares moved up 8½p to 220½p, a rise of 4 per cent, after encouraging earnings figures and lower losses supported group forecasts on pre-tax profits for 1999. The Orange figures helped Vodafone, a rival operator, to increase 3p to 321p.

As buying interest switched to the German mark, the weaker pound brought exporters some welcome relief.

BTR, the best performer amongst FTSE 100 stocks and saw more than 18 million shares traded. The shares ended 13½p higher at 214p.

Currency factors and expansion in the US were also said to be behind a 12½p rise to 347½p for Glynwed International.

Drugs groups recovered ground after recent falls. Zeneca ended at £19.10½, up 24p, off its best of the day. The rise was helped by a positive broker note. Glaxo Wellcome, went ex-dividend, but rose 15p to £12.41.

Chiroscience led the FT-250 top performers with a 16½p rise to 28½p, while Medeva put on 5½p to 224p. Franklin Resources has lifted its stake in the group to 8.15 per cent after the acquisition of a further 2.2 million shares.

Allied Domecq continued to find support. Its shares added 7p to 482½p, while Guinness saw brisk turnover of nearly 12 million shares as a number of institutions topped up holdings. Guinness shares moved up 2½p to 585p.

Shares in Unilever were tripped up by comments from analysts at Schroder who said that the food and detergents multinational had £10 billion to spend on an acquisition although most of the possible targets would dilute earnings. The broker also said that Unilever shares were overvalued by 10 per cent. At the close Unilever was trading 26½p lower at £18.55.

The announcement that Al-



Derek Smith, the managing director of MAID, and Dan Wagner, the chief executive, saw the share price decline

bert Fisher, the seafood to salads fresh food group, was no longer in takeover talks, knocked its shares sharply. At one point, the price hit a trading low of 35p, down from 43½p, and just 1p off its lowest point this year. By the close the shares had moved back up to 24½p.

Hanson shares fell back 24½p to 304p after it reported

first-half figures. Strong growth potential in the US was flagged up by the group reporting its first set of figures since demerger.

Profit-taking pushed WPP, the advertising group, to a low of 260p before it recovered to close at 270p, down 3½p. The strong pound kept a lid on profit increases, with pre-tax profit for the half year rising to

£78.3 million, compared with £68.1 million.

Lower first-half losses from MAID, the online information group, and details of a £5.5 million acquisition, left its shares 5½p lower at 209½p.

Banks were in the spotlight again. Alliance & Leicester rose 9p to 612½p ahead of interim results today, while Halifax, reporting next week, ended up just ½p at 731p. Royal Bank of Scotland continued to slide, dropping 11p to 601p on further consideration of its acquisition of Birmingham Midshires.

Scottish Media, owner of Scottish TV, was unchanged at 642½p after buying a further 13½ per cent stake in Ulster TV for £14.15 million, taking its holding to 14.99 per cent. News of the move propelled Ulster TV 32½p higher to 199p, its highest level this year.

Ahead of results today, BSKyB eased back 11p to 470p. Television Corporation rose 1½p to 203p, after Sunset & Vine, a subsidiary, was awarded a contract to provide football coverage for Channel 5. In the wake of midweek fixtures, Caspian, owner of Leeds United moved up 14p to 28p after the team's 3-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday.

Boots rose 79½p, a 12p gain, helped by a positive note from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It said that given recent underperformance Boots offered irresistible value.

Games Workshop, the model soldier and games group that earlier in the week announced a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, jumped 55p to 630p. The rise was helped by a strong "buy" recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laing, which is penciling in a target price of more than 700p.

Gold-eagle: The market followed the tone of equities as activity slowed after early gains. In thin volumes of just 39,000 contracts the September series of the long gilt closed up £1½ at £114½.

In shorts, Treasury 8½ at £102½, while at the long end, Treasury 8½ per cent 2015 was up ½p at £101½. NEW YORK: Wall Street shares shed most of their early gains in spite of the release of further data bringing the July consumer prices index into line with expectations. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 18.38 points at 7,946.58.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7946.58 (+18.58)
S&P Composite	623.62 (+3.62)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19222.62 (+214.02)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	16697.71 (+14.78)
Amsterdam:	
BOE Index	395.30 (+0.17)
Sydney:	
AO	2627.4 (+0.30)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4281.43 (+47.05)
Singapore:	
Strait	1891.77 (+16.39)
Brussels:	
General	1370.45 (+40.99)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2921.94 (+2.20)
Zurich:	
SWX	1200.60 (+13.10)
London:	
FT 100	3198.2 (+13.0)
FTSE 100	4991.3 (-12.3)
FTSE 250	4689.9 (+12.9)
FTSE 350	2604.1 (-3.5)
FTSE Eurozone 100	2673.74 (-41.79)
FTSE All-Share	2346.32 (-2.54)
FTSE New Financial	2642.73 (-3.25)
FTSE Fixed Interest	125.65 (-0.10)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.85 (-0.28)
FTSE 100 Volatility	17.11
US\$	1.5870 (+0.0006)
German Mark	2.9280 (+0.0006)
Bank of England Indent	5.75% (0.75 p.p.)
Bank of England official cde (4pm)	
60C01	1.4730
ESPR	1.7724
ESPR	157.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987-100
ESPR	156.4 Jul (0.0%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta	410	-
Blakes Clothing	724	-
British & West Prt	1081	-
Cammell Laird	1373	-
Delcam	269	-
EMI 5	115	-
Fairfield Enis	1175	-
Fairplace Consulting	65	-
Glen Holdings	126	-
Greenline Group	126	-
Hellon Publsg	100	-
Jonica Group	381	-
Kingfisher Leisure	173	-
LEPCO	78	-
Landround	94	-
Mercator	200	-
Reboume Merlin	108	-
SBS Group	108	-
Servant Trent B	34	-
Stentor Warrants	50	-
Ted Baker	137	-
Thorn B	20	-
Vigint Technology	66	-

FORTUNE OIL n/p (11)

Golden Land n/p (21)	3
Logica n/p (605)	225

RISER

Ulster TV	189p (+32½p)
BTR	214p (+18½p)
Chiroscience	28½p (+16½p)
Harlequin	255p (+18p)
Harlequin	274p (+12½p)

FALLS

Johnson	325p (-30p)
Hanson	304p (-24½p)
Roile & Nolan	332p (-12p)
Rosabye	305p (-14p)
Shield Disp	525p (-17½p)
EMI	585p (-11p)
Ryl BK Scot	601p (-11p)
Next	784p (-51½p)
Next	784p (-51½p)
Next	817p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 27

Rediscovering Hanson

HANSON had given its shareholders a good run since finally putting its acquisition-led past behind it last February. However, yesterday's results and upbeat comments on future trading failed to impress the City, which pushed the shares 24½p lower to 304p - giving up more than half the gains made over the previous six months.

This looks a little harsh. The company is difficult to read at the moment, because of the complications caused by the demerger of The Energy Group, Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals. Still, Hanson is trying, and is providing a wealth of information about its businesses - even supplying quarterly figures for changes in the volumes and prices of crushed rock, coated stone, sand and gravel. This must be better than the days when the only question was: what's the next big deal?

The group, and specifically Robert Hanson, the founder's son, is trying to sell Grove Worldwide, the crane making company that is the most obvious cuckoo in the building materials nest. It is hoping to take advantage of the current buoyancy in the US construction market, and hints that it will retain the business if it does not receive the £400 million it supposedly wants.

Margins across the group are moving in the right direction, though it is hard to believe it can sustain the 24 per cent at Hanson Bricks, no matter how many of its bricks are made from specialist clays. But the management is extremely optimistic, and confident it can keep the tax charge at close to the present 16 per cent for a few more years. While it may take time for the City to warm to New Hanson, the shares are still worth holding.

Albert Fisher

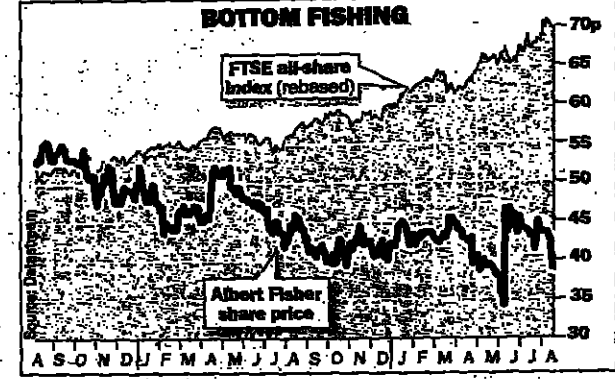
LONG-SUFFERING shareholders is a cliché, but it certainly applies to the poor souls with own shares in Albert Fisher. Those who thought they were about to have their prayers answered by a takeover of the food business by Chiquita have again been disappointed.

Stephen Wallis et al will have to come out with something very attractive to make up for the disappointment. Yesterday's price fall to 38½p leaves Fisher's shares on a dividend yield of around 12 per cent. Since the company continues to insist that it will maintain the payout, it would be nice to believe that the shares can fall no further.

Fisher is certainly taking a step in the right direction by selling the seafood division, although even that could

become messy if it has to be dismantled rather than sold off whole. A share buyback will also be welcome. But the group still needs to improve the performance of the remaining divisions if it is to be re-rated. Neil England, the new chief executive, has talked a good story, but it is far from encouraging that Fisher

slipped out a modest profit warning under cover of yesterday's announcement. The sale of seafood could well mean the dividend is up for review next year, so even that prop could be removed. Given Fisher's long record of disappointing expectations, they will tempt few buyers. But existing holders should continue to hold.



Orange

PITY ORANGE. It is considered the most aggressive and innovative of the four mobile phone companies, and the only one with a strong brand, yet the name appears on few City buy lists. The shares have underperformed the market by about 10 per cent in the past year.

Part of this is down to concern about Orange's rising debts. More importantly, mobile phones are simply not the hot items they were a couple of years ago. In the second quarter of this year, net subscriber growth in Britain was only 293,000, well below the 350,000 expected by many analysts. Growth in Continental Europe, meanwhile, continues unabated: in Scandinavia, mobile-phone penetration exceeds 30 per cent, compared to about 13 per cent here.

The problem is high prices. In some European countries, phones cost half as much

Although Orange insists it has no intention of dropping tariffs, the betting is that the company will have to eat its words. Competitors have already introduced a series of new packages that have eroded Orange's once substantial price advantage.

An all-out price war is unlikely, but prices will eventually have to come down to spur growth. Orange may be a fine company, but the outlook for the shares is far from bright.

MAID

A GLANCE at MAID's share price gives investors confidence. Many could be forgiven for detecting the scent of a spivvy blue-sky technology stock likely to perform a spectacular posade.

MAID has always promised to build a powerful information database, complete its infrastructure early, and stabilise costs so any money

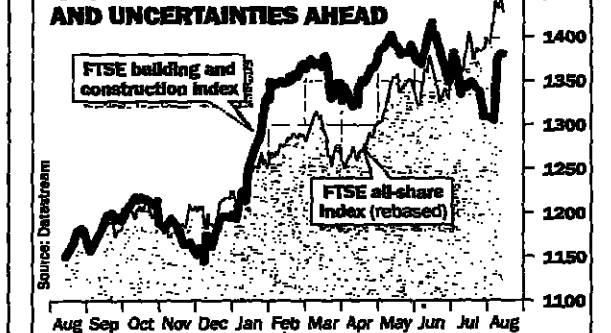
from extra customers drops straight to the bottom line. It is starting to deliver. In the second quarter, costs were down and subscribers 34 per cent up. It should break into the black by the end of next month. With subscribers are renewing at a rate of 87 per cent, it is hitting a reliable and loyal market.

Profits will start to roll thick and fast, with £2.5 million this year and £18 million next. On this basis, the shares are on a ratio of 11.7 times for this year, 10 times for next; in short, looking cheap.

But what of the traditional volatility? To a degree, this will be ironed out when MAID starts making profits, reducing its sensitivity to speculation. The other problem is that its shares are too tightly held. If the directors shed some of their 73 per cent holding, the stock could take off - in the short without regularly crashing back to earth.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

HOUSEBUILDERS: OPPORTUNITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES AHEAD



SHARES in the house-builders notched up modest gains yesterday in spite of the seasonal snooze in the market. Bellway rose 4p to 354½p, Berkeley Group rose 9½p to 735p, while Redrow added 2p to 166½p.

The patchy performance of the housing market has meant a bumpy ride for housebuilders in recent years, with the sector underperforming the market over the past few months.

A report on the private housebuilding sector from Credit Lyonnais Laing highlights the mixture of opportunities and uncertainties

within the market. Analyst Michael Foster says that despite concerns about the industry's ability "to enjoy a sustained recovery in profitability", there remains potential for medium-term growth, and opportunities for selected stocks. Recommendations include Bellway, also Beazer, which is at a significant price-earnings discount to the sector. Persimmon looks attractive with a strong land bank, while recovery stocks Crest and Wainhomes, despite recent strengths, still have further to go.

COMMODITIES

LIFTS

Commodity	Price	Change
COCA	1015-1017	1122-1120
COCA	1015-1017	1122-1120
COCA	1015-1017	1122-1120
COCA	1015-1017	1122-1120
COCA	1015-1017	1122-1120

ROBUSTA COFFEE (FIB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Robusta	1530-1532	1500-1495
Robusta	1530-1532	1500-1495
Robusta	1530-1532	1500-1495
Robusta	1530-1532	1500-1495
Robusta	1530-1532	1500-1495

WHITE SUGAR (FIB)

Commodity	Price	Change
White Sugar	321-320.5	319-318.5
White Sugar	321-320.5	319-318.5
White Sugar	321-320.5	319-318.5
White Sugar	321-320.5	319-318.5
White Sugar	321-320.5	319-318.5

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average clearing prices at representative markets on August 13

Commodity	Price	Change
Meat	70.38	109.98
Meat	70.38	109.98
Meat	70.38	109.98
Meat	70.38	109.98
Meat	70.38	109.98

LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

Commodity	Price	Change
Life Futures	173.92-173.75	178.25-178.50
Life Futures	173.92-173.75	178.25-178.50
Life Futures	173.92-173.75	178.25-178.50
Life Futures	173.92-173.75	178.25-178.50
Life Futures	173.92-173.75	178.25-178.50

BREXIT (Bulldog)

Commodity	Price	Change
Brexit	14.14-14.17	14.14-14.15
Brexit	14.14-14.17	14.14-14.15
Brexit	14.14-14.17	14.14-14.15
Brexit	14.14-14.17	14.14-14.15
Brexit	14.14-14.17	14.14-14.15

LONDON METALS EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
London Metals	2291.0-2290.5	2285.0-2285.0
London Metals	2291.0-2290.5	2285.0-2285.0
London Metals	2291.0-2290.5	2285.0-2285.0
London Metals	2291.0-2290.5	2285.0-2285.0
London Metals	2291.0-2290.5	2285.0-2285.0

LIFE OPTIONS

Commodity	Price	Change
Life Options	550-550	550-550
Life Options	550-550	550-550
Life Options	550-550	550-550
Life Options	550-550	550-550
Life Options	550-550	550-550

FTSE INDEX (FIB)

Commodity	Price	Change
FTSE Index	4990-4990	5000-5000
FTSE Index	4990-4990	5000-5000
FTSE Index	4990-4990	5000-5000
FTSE Index	4990-4990	5000-5000
FTSE Index	4990-4990	5000-5000

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt

Commodity	Price	Change
Long Gilt	114.18	114.28
Long Gilt	114.18	114.28
Long Gilt	114.18	114.28
Long Gilt	114.18	114.28
Long Gilt	114.18	114.28

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Japanese Govt Bond	126.95	127.01
Japanese Govt Bond	126.95	127.01
Japanese Govt Bond	126.95	127.01
Japanese Govt Bond	126.95	127.01
Japanese Govt Bond	126.95	127.01

Three Mth Sterling

Commodity	Price	Change
Three Mth Sterling	92.98	92.97
Three Mth Sterling	92.98	92.97
Three Mth Sterling	92.98	92.97
Three Mth Sterling	92.98	92.97
Three Mth Sterling	92.98	92.97

Three Mth Eurosterling

Commodity	Price	Change
Three Mth Eurosterling	94.43	94.43
Three Mth Eurosterling	94.43	94.43
Three Mth Eurosterling	94.43	94.43
Three Mth Eurosterling	94.43	94.43
Three Mth Eurosterling	94.43	94.43

Three Mth ECU

Commodity	Price	Change
Three Mth ECU	94.43	94.43
Three Mth ECU	94.43	94.43
Three Mth ECU	94.43	94.43
Three Mth ECU	94.43	94.43
Three Mth ECU	94.43	94.43

FTSE 100

Commodity	Price	Change
FTSE 100	5040.5	5040.5
FTSE 100	5040.5	5040.5
FTSE 100	5040.5	5040.5
FTSE 100	5040.5	5040.5
FTSE 100	5040.5	5040.5

MONEY RATES (%)

Com

Single currency offers no easy solution for sterling

Pound could continue to rise rather than fall if EMU goes ahead

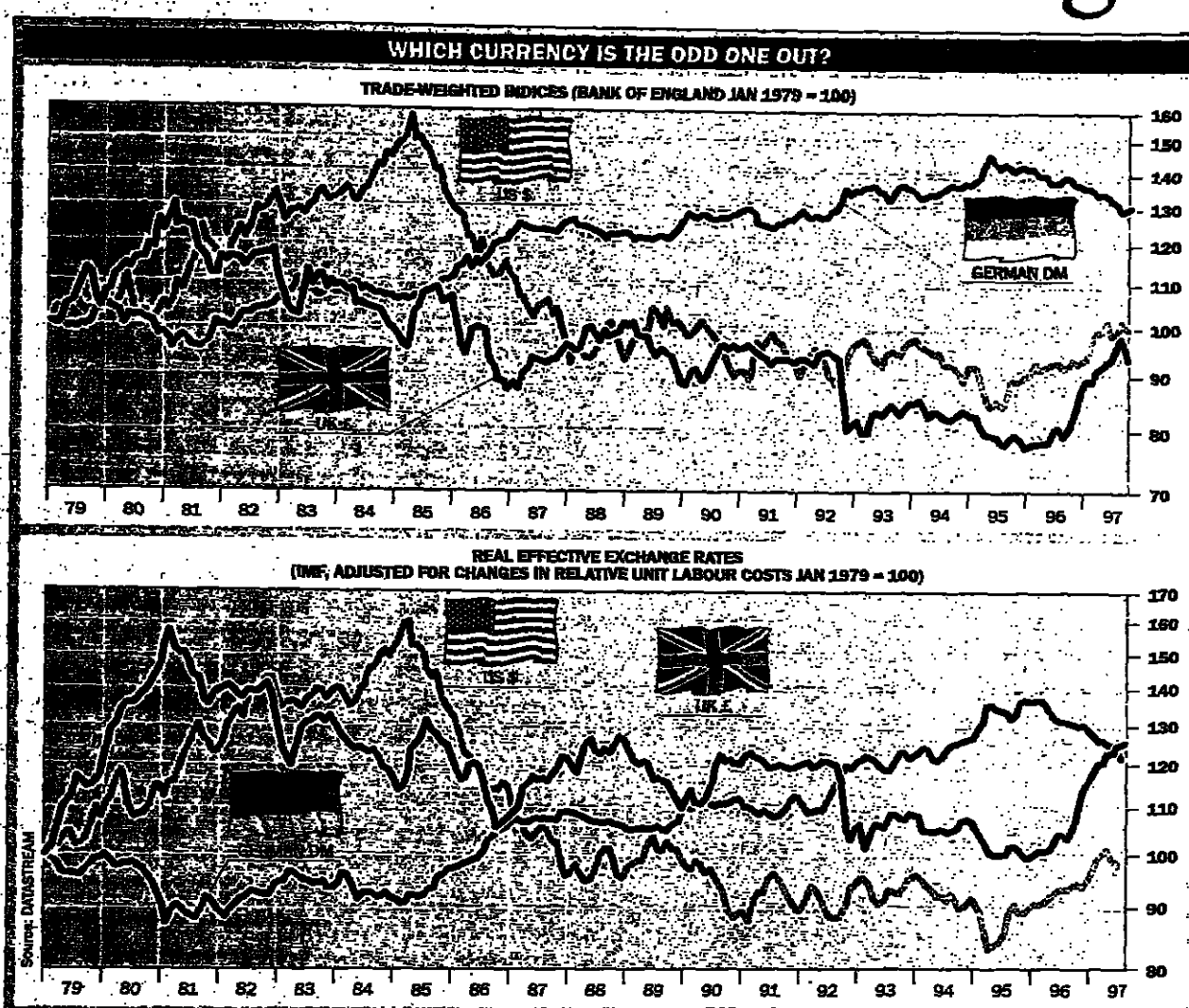
Will European monetary union come to the rescue of beleaguered British exporters by producing a big devaluation of the pound? On Wednesday afternoon the foreign exchanges in London and New York were suddenly abuzz with rumours about a deal between Tony Blair, Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac. Britain, which takes over the presidency of the European Union in January, would allegedly propose a one-year delay of EMU to January 2000, which France and Germany would gratefully agree to in exchange for the face-saving "achievement" of extracting a promise from Blair to join the single currency as a founder-member in January 2000.

This speculative story seems to have been put about by German Euro-skeptics, who cannot face the notion that Germany would be the only large northern Protestant country in a monetary union dominated by France, Italy and Spain. Similar speculation about a "constructive delay" in EMU, brokered by Mr Blair, has been doing the rounds of the international conference circuit ever since the British election in May. But until this rumour was printed in London's *Evening Standard*, most market and political observers shared the view expressed by the British Treasury on Wednesday when it was asked if the story was true: this story did "not even deserve to be dignified with a no comment". Why, then, did the markets suddenly take it seriously?

The easy answer is simply that in mid-August traders will launch on to any story, however implausible, if it might generate some business. A related reason is that every currency speculator in the world had been selling marks for months after the Bundesbank gold heist and the French election destroyed the last hopes that a rigorous monetary union would go ahead with a small number of countries on essentially German terms. Sooner or later a correction was bound to come as these traders decided to cash in their profits. The pound and dollar were equally overbought and nervous short-term holders have been looking for excuses to sell.

Beneath the froth of market connotation, however, several worthwhile observations about EMU, Germany and Britain are suggested by the past week's events.

The first is that German opponents of a soft Latin-dominated EMU are begin-



ning to clutch at straws. Serious opposition to EMU in Germany seems to be evaporating, even though the political position of Helmut Kohl's, the single currency main proponent, is getting weaker by the day. Paradoxically the two developments may be connected. As it begins to look near-certain that Herr Kohl will be ousted at next autumn's elections by a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, the opposition parties are less tempted to turn EMU into a political issue to embarrass the beleaguered Chancellor. Under these circumstances, the pro-EMU conventional wisdom of Germany's financial and industrial lobbies is bound to prevail over the visceral antagonism of the ordinary people.

German defenders of the mark, as they despair of domestic politics as a mechanism for stopping EMU, are trying to conjure up a *deus ex machina* from abroad. But why on earth should the French agree to any kind of delay? The new French Government is achieving exactly what it wanted and what it promised voters, now that Herr Kohl has effectively downgraded the 3 per cent deficit target and created a procedure that will allow the whole of Club Med to join. But even if the French did want a delay, why should Tony Blair get involved? It is hard to believe that he would jeopardise his Government by promising to take Britain into EMU before the next general election, since this would necessitate a referendum at the mid-point of the present Parliament, when his popularity is likely to be at its lowest ebb.

The next observation relates to the reason why Germany's business community is now so dedicated to EMU, even on the softened terms demanded by France. Essentially, German businessmen now see EMU as a guarantee that their exports will never again be ravaged by an overvalued currency. The Germans still want low inflation (as do people in every other country) but they have begun to understand the lesson that was learnt in 1995 by the Japanese and ten years before that by the Americans — stable prices at home can be perfectly compatible with a currency that is relatively

The last thing Germans want is a mark that is stronger than the lira

weak on the foreign exchanges. With unemployment rising monthly to new records, the last thing the German businessmen or voters want today is a mark that is stronger than the lira, peseta or French franc. This is the most important reason why EMU now seems all but certain. It also explains why the Bundesbank's putative concern about "excessive" depreciation of the mark against the dollar will continue to be all talk and no action.

But if one of the main reasons why Germans want to join EMU is to avoid the

ravages of an overvalued currency, then it seems reasonable to assume that both the mark and the euro will be deliberately managed to achieve this end. This observation leads to a question of special relevance to Britain.

Why do so many investors believe that the ending of the present uncertainty about EMU would automatically produce a much lower pound? On Wednesday the Bank of England lent its credibility to this school of thought by arguing in its quarterly *Inflation Report* that up to half of the pound's appreciation against the mark might be due to investors' preference for "safe haven" currencies immune from the uncertainties of the EMU process. The Bank then predicted that the pound would fall by about 10 per cent in the next two years once the present uncertainties over EMU were resolved.

It is hard to see how both of these statements could be true. If investors are shunning marks because they may be converted into euros, surely they will shun them all the more once this possible transformation becomes certain. The Bank rejects this view. It argues that investors are not put off by the prospect of a weak euro but merely by the uncertainty surrounding the whole EMU process. This uncertainty is bound to be resolved one way or the other in the next 12 months. But what if investors are piling out of marks and into pounds simply because they do not want their savings converted into low-interest euros, managed by an untried and politically illegitimate Tower of Babel of a central bank, pre-

siding over a continent suffering long-term economic depression? In that case, the pound might strengthen further if EMU went ahead and the mark's abolition became certain.

This is in fact the conclusion suggested by common sense. If EMU goes ahead, the governments of Europe, led by the Germans, will be determined to maintain a competitive exchange rate. This will make it even harder than it is today for Britain either to manipulate the pound downwards or to join EMU at an artificially advantageous rate.

The Bank, along with many other analysts, assumes that the currency values prevailing in 1995 and 1996, when sterling was low and the mark was high, were "normal", while today's conditions are somehow an artificial. But the opposite is true from the German point of view. As the charts show, the present level of the pound is much less of an aberration by historic standards than the value of the mark until last year. British industry would, of course, have benefited from preserving the extremely competitive level of the pound we enjoyed in 1995 and 1996. But to keep the pound at such a competitive level would have required a complicated exercise in economic policy and monetary diplomacy. The present Government's priorities — above all its decision to create an independent central bank — dictated a different approach. Now that this die has been cast, we must accept the consequences — and British industry must learn to live without the help of a highly competitive pound.

held up by gridlock. Tube shutdown, road rage outbreaks or any other unforeseen occurrences, we have arranged for a motorbike to pick you up from your offices. I think I'd rather walk.

Broken up

ANYONE in doubt that the 1980s fetish for multi-tenanted companies is dead and buried should make a quick telephone call to the broker Dresner Kleinwort Benson and ask to speak to a conglomerates analyst. "Conglomerate? I'm afraid we don't have that company listed," came yesterday's response. Further explanation also proved fruitless. "It does all sorts of things you say, sir? Well does it do them in the retail sector? The bank sector? Then the cards were laid down. 'I don't wish to sound ignorant, but must confess that I don't know what a conglomerate actually is.' After a few minutes of explanation, the old trick was deployed: if you can't understand them, put them through to the voice mail.

WITH those Woolwich, Halifax and Norwich Union windfalls burning a hole in my pocket, the question is — what

to spend it on? Golden Charter, Britain's largest funeral planning network, have written suggesting that I spend that windfall on a pre-paid funeral. Apparently a funeral plan only costs £1,200, but it is estimated that a good burial will cost more than £5,500 by 2017. "I believe the more discerning members of the public, when they realise the benefits and savings they can achieve through the purchase of the funeral plan, will give it serious consideration," says Gordon Kee, chief executive of Golden Charter. I've cancelled the order for my BMW already.

JASON NISSÉ



Plot unfolds

WITH those Woolwich, Halifax and Norwich Union windfalls burning a hole in my pocket, the question is — what

Pronounced Orange glow yet fulfilment remains elusive

Eric Reguly on why analysts have a sceptical view of market prospects for mobile phones

The future, it seems, is truly Orange. It crawled out of the wreckage of Hutchison Telecom's Rabbit debacle three years ago to become the fastest-growing mobile-phone network. Its brand name is among the best-known in the land, its flotation was wildly successful and it is on the verge of generating net profits in spite of a rapid roll-out programme that left rival One-2-One gasping for breath.

Why, then, are the shares unloved? The company was floated last year at 205p, which was at the absolute top end of forecasts, climbed to 250p then sunk below its issue price. Since then it has underperformed the market by about 10 per cent.

Analysts have enormous admiration for Orange, but the name does not appear on their "buy" lists. "I love the company, but I don't love the shares," said James McCafferty of ABN-Amro Hoare Govett. The City blames the market more than Orange itself. There are signs that British mobile-phone sales are losing momentum just as they are roaring ahead in continental Europe. Growth rates there are two to three times faster; the penetration rates in Scandinavia are more than 30 per cent compared with about 13 per cent in Britain.

High prices appear to be the main culprit, though fine reception quality in some markets, notably Scandinavia, has reduced the frustration levels associated with mobile-phone usage. In some European countries prices are half those of Britain's. The City is worried that Orange and its competitors will have to drop their prices to build growth momentum. A severe reduction could hammer the shares. When Conrad Black slashed

the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph* in 1994 in an effort to keep the cheaper *Times* from grabbing readers, *Telegraph* group shares plunged 35 per cent in one day.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, insists there is no need to drop prices even though Vodafone, Cellnet and One-2-One have all introduced new tariffs that have eroded Orange's once substantial price advantage. He believes there is still ample room for growth and that the smartest way forward is to prevent existing customers from leaving the network. High disconnection rates, known as "churn", is the industry's cancer. Some 20 per cent of Orange's customers flee for parts unknown each year. The level is closer to 30 per cent at the three other operators.

On average, it costs Orange £256 to recruit one new customer. Orange has a million customers; reducing the churn rate from 20 per cent to 10 per cent would create annual savings above £25 million.

Orange's research suggested that the quality and range of services, not price, is the main reason behind high disconnection rates. Service quality boils down to network coverage. Customers want to be able to use their mobile phones in buildings, in cars

and in rural and remote areas. Orange's theory is that mobile phones will never be as popular as fixed-line phones unless wireless networks are as extensive, reliable and hassle-free as British Telecom's.

To improve coverage, Orange is doubling the speed of its network expansion. It plans to invest £800 million on the network before the end of 1999 by bringing forward £400 million in spending that was originally scheduled for 2000 and beyond. The money will boost the number of transmission sites from 2,900 to 6,000, providing coverage for 98 per cent of the population and 80 per cent geographic coverage.

Political and business reasons motivated the accelerated programme. The Department of Trade and Industry is trying to discourage the proliferation of transmission masts because of their sheer ugliness. Orange, anticipating a ban on new masts within a few years, is trying to get in under the wire. Competitors that are slow to build may have to rent from Orange, opening up a new revenue channel.

The company also plans to use its improved network to launch new services, including home shopping, electronic mail, Internet access and online financial transfers. It admits, however, that none of these is commercially viable at the moment.

Analysts say Orange is doing the right thing but they are leaving their recommendations unchanged. They think Orange's vision of a wireless world is unrealistic as long as the price differential between mobile and fixed-line phones is so extreme. Price reductions seem likely but until they are in place there will be no rush to buy the shares.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Short-sighted way to run a company

From Mr Kenneth Armitage Sir, That the Hampel committee on corporate governance and regulation recommends a softer approach must be a cause for some concern among the other stakeholders in any company.

To suggest that "companies should be run for shareholder and no one else" will, in no way, help to defray the "fat-cat" title and image associated with those who manage companies and more noticeably the utilities. Besides, investigations by Harvard, which compared companies which took an active interest in other stakeholders, customers, employees and suppliers, against those that concentrated simply on shareholder value and

returns, found that the former were four times more effective in conducting business and created eight times more jobs than the latter.

It is time, perhaps, that some form of legislation was introduced which forces institutional shareholders, bearing in mind that many represent pension funds, to not only attend company annual shareholder meetings but to vote on every resolution, and more importantly those related to management structure and remuneration recommendations, and to indicate how they voted.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH ARMITAGE, 6 Deben Valley Drive, Kesgrave, Suffolk.

Let Newro follow Rambo's lead

From Mr Robin Stormonth Darling Sir, I see that the new overall financial regulator is to be called Newro.

I was a director of the first SIB in 1985 and suggested calling it Rambo for Regulatory Authority for Multifinancial Business Organisations.

I hope that Newro will not get bogged down with red tape and legalistic minutiae, but that like Rambo it will allow entrepreneurial initiative to thrive under robust control. Yours faithfully, ROBIN STORMONTH DARLING, Balvarran, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

Royal treatment

EXPECT long queues outside the Leeds office of DTZ Debenham Thorp, the estate agent, this morning. There is a noon deadline to make an offer for a portfolio of 84 houses being sold by the kings of drought, Yorkshire Water.

The homes — which are being sold as a job lot — are surplus to Yorkshire's requirement. Many of them have tenants who pay a total of £168,000 a year for living in such princely addresses as Gorpse Reservoir Lodge near

Hebden Bridge or numbers One and Two Springhead Pumping Station, near Hull. Rumour has it that a keen buyer might be a Jordanian consortium with links to the Royal Family. I look forward to King Hussein choosing one of the delightful homes as his Yorkshire residence. May I suggest Number One House, Owlwood Sewerage Treatment Works, Your Highness.

ALBERT FISHER, now obliged to stay independent, was given an ambiguous commendation by one City analyst yesterday. "Their new chief executive is quite impressive," he said. "He's from Mars."



King Hussein is linked to a bid for properties owned by Yorkshire Water



Reason — the new name will be Portman Initial, which conjures up visions of hand towels. I would have preferred Portman Rentokil.

Biker groove

TO WEMBLEY where next week the self-effacing Bono and his bunch of ageing Irish rockers, U2, will attempt to entertain several fans with their brand of popular music. I hear that Andersen Consulting, who you call in to tell you what you should already know, are taking a party to enjoy the spectacle. With the foresight one expects from management consultants, they have told guests that "to ensure that you are not



Week two of *The Times* Challenge of the Mind competition with £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. The competition, to coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, invites you to test your wits. Every day this week we will set you a number of puzzles to get you thinking. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

£500 BRIDGE PROBLEM by Robert Sheehan

Today's problem has been set by our own Bridge correspondent, Robert Sheehan. Bridge comprises two stages, bidding and play. In the diagram North and South have most of the high cards and they bid to the contract of six no-trumps, which means that they need to take 12 or 13 possible tricks without any trumps. West led the jack of clubs and the dummy was then placed on the table. The four of clubs was played and South won the first trick with the queen of clubs. In our example the declarer can make absolutely certain of his contract. Should he

- play a diamond to the ace, play a spade to the ace and then lead the queen of diamonds?
- continue with the ace of clubs, discarding the ace of diamonds from the North hand?
- lead the ace of hearts, king of hearts and another heart?

Call 0891 102 724 (ex UK +44 990 200 618) before midnight tonight with your answer, a, b or c. The winner will get £500 and 50 runners-up will receive a copy of Robert Sheehan's new book *The Times Book of Bridge 1*. Winners

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 724 (ex UK +44 990 200 618). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. On each line place one letter which can be continued on the end of the line to form a word. The words must be in the same column. The words must be in the same column. The words must be in the same column.

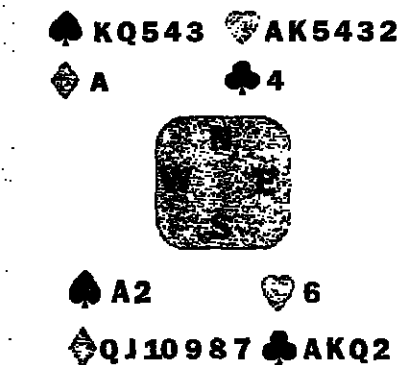
SW	1
NY	2
CO	3
CO	4

Q2. What number would replace the question mark?

121518	121518
121518	121518
121518	121518
121518	121518

Q3. Three cities are mentioned here. One was once a city and one was a city. One was once a city and one was a city.

SAULDERSEPPREUNGRATSC



will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published tomorrow with answers for Awar and Draughts. Normal TNL competition rules apply. 0891 call cost 50p a minute.

The answers to the 10 test on page 11 of Monday's *Mind Sports Olympiad* supplement were: 1) 34 (previous two numbers added = next number) 1) 44 (previous number x 2) 7 = next number, 4) 58 (previous number + 1), previous number + 2) etc. 2. 26.2 + ... x 3.5.5 = 125 = 5 + (26.5) A. Put Spots, Topples, Spotlight, Compotes, 5. Surrounders, A. Maroon, Orange, Indigo, 7. Pleasures, 8. L. Initial letters of zodiac signs. 8. 20p. Each contestant = 4p & vowel = 2p. 10. Sarah (second letter of each occupation), 11. F. 12. 50p, 13. RAM-ARAB, Jump, Jumpstart, Arching, 14. 8216 (the last digit in the previous number x that number), 15. 28 (sum of alphabetical positions of alternate letters in the names) i.e. PAPER = 16+16+18 = 50 FLORENCE = 6+15+5+3 = 29. 16. 7. Just add two to the number of letters. 17. 1. First column numbers added — that number = second column. Second column divided by 6 then equated = third column. i.e. 2-6 = 4, 4-8 = 3, 1-1 = 1, 18. 44. The answer is formed by the last digit of one sequence from another. First sequence starts at 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 24, 48, 96, 192, 384, 768, 1536, 3072, 6144, 12288, 24576, 49152, 98304, 196608, 393216, 786432, 1572864, 3145728, 6291456, 12582912, 25165824, 50331648, 100663296, 201326592, 402653184, 805306368, 1610612736, 3221225472, 6442450944, 12884901888, 25769803776, 51539607552, 103079215104, 206158430208, 412316860416, 824633720832, 1649267441664, 3298534883328, 6597069766656, 13194139533312, 26388279066624, 52776558133248, 105553116266496, 211106232532992, 422212465065984, 844424930131968, 1688849860263936, 3377699720527872, 6755399441055744, 13510798882111488, 27021597764222976, 54043195528445952, 108086391056891904, 216172782113783808, 432345564227567616, 864691128455135232, 1729382256910270464, 3458764513820540928, 6917529027641081856, 13835058055282163712, 27670116110564327424, 55340232221128654848, 110680464442257309696, 221360928884514619392, 442721857769029238784, 885443715538058477568, 1770887431076116955136, 3541774862152233910272, 7083549724304467820544, 14167099448608935641088, 28334198897217871282176, 56668397794435742564352, 113336795588871485128704, 226673591177742970257408, 453347182355485940514816, 906694364710971881029632, 1813388729421943762059264, 3626777458843887524118528, 7253554917687775048237056, 14507109835375550096474112, 29014219670751100192948224, 58028439341502200385896448, 116056878683004400771792896, 232113757366008801543585792, 464227514732017603087171584, 928455029464035206174343168, 1856910058928070412348686336, 3713820117856140824697372672, 7427640235712281649394745344, 14855280471424563298789490688, 29710560942849126597578981376, 59421121885698253195157962752, 118842243771396506390315925504, 237684487542793012780631851008, 475368975085586025561263702016, 950737950171172051122527404032, 1901475900342344102245054808064, 3802951800684688204490109616128, 7605903601369376408980219232256, 15211807202738752817960438464512, 30423614405477505635920876929024, 60847228810955011271841753858048, 121694457621910022543683507716096, 243388915243820045087367015432192, 486777830487640090174734030864384, 973555660975280180349468061728768, 1947111321950560360698936123457536, 3894222643901120721397872246915072, 7788445287802241442795744493830144, 15576890575604482885591488987660288, 31153781151208965771182977975320576, 62307562302417931542365955950641152, 124615124604835863084731911901282304, 249230249209671726169463823802564608, 498460498419343452338927647605129216, 996920996838686904677855295210258432, 1993841993677373809355710590420516864, 3987683987354747618711421180841033728, 7975367974709495237422842361682067456, 15950735949418990474845684723364134912, 31901471898837980949691369446728269824, 63802943797675961899382738893456539648, 127605887595351923798765477786913079296, 255211775190703847597530955573826158592, 510423550381407695195061911147652317184, 1020847100762815390390123822295304634368, 2041694201525630780780247644590609268736, 4083388403051261561560495289181218537472, 8166776806102523123120990578362437074944, 16333553612205046246241981156724874149888, 32667107224410092492483962313449748299776, 65334214448820184984967924626899496599552, 130668428897640369969935849253798993199104, 261336857795280739939871698507597986398208, 522673715590561479879743397015195972796416, 1045347431181122959759486794030391945592832, 2090694862362245919518973588060783891185664, 4181389724724491839037947176121567782371328, 8362779449448983678075894352243135564742656, 16725558898897967356151788704486271129485312, 33451117797795934712303577408972542258970624, 66902235595591869424607154817945084517941248, 133804471191183738849214309635890169035882496, 267608942382367477698428619271780338071764992, 535217884764734955396857238543560676143529984, 1070435769529469910793714477087121352287059968, 2140871539058939821587428954174242704574119936, 4281743078117879643174857908348485409148239872, 8563486156235759286349715816696970818296479744, 17126972312471518572699431633393941636592959488, 34253944624943037145398863266787883273185918976, 68507889249886074290797726533575766546371837952, 137015778499772148581595453067151533092743675904, 27403155

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

You won't be moving companies for a while then.

15.20 15.50

Shares lose early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
BANKS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
BREWERY, PUBS & REST						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ELECTRICITY						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
HOUSEHOLD GOODS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ENGINEERING						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
CHEMICALS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
DISTRIBUTORS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ELECTRICITY						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS						
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ENGINEERING						
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CHEMICALS						
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12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
DISTRIBUTORS						
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12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS						
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12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
PRINTING & PAPER						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
PROPERTY						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
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TEXTILES & APPAREL						
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12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
TRANSPORT						
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12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
RETAILERS, FOOD						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
RETAILERS, GENERAL						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
WATER						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET						
12.10	12.05	Asahi Breweries	12.05	-0.05	3.2	18.5
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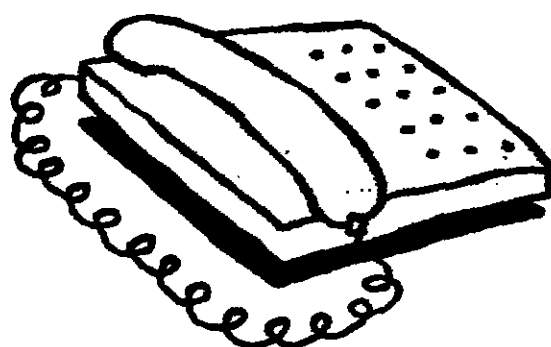
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Members of the audience get ready to become part of the frenetic Catalan show, *Blinded by Love*, which bans photography of the action itself

Crash courses

FRINGE

IT'S not every Fringe show that, ten minutes in, gives you a chance to scarper lest you feel cheated, conned or just plain bored. But this is exactly what Brazilian wild woman Denise Stoklos does in her new one-woman show, *Casa* (Assembly Rooms), an unstoppable crash course through 20 million years of history.

For, surrounded by the clutter of consumerism, this appears to be Stoklos's own exploration of her very soul. In the evolutionary stakes she comes on like the deranged offspring of an unholy union between Wurlz Gunmidge and Big Bird, and literally hurls herself into her performance with naked abandon.

If it all sounds a trifle self-obsessed that's because it is, and the woman is probably hell to live with, but with *Casa* Stoklos is trying both to deal with and break through the late 20th-century malaise of being unable to communicate properly. And Stoklos is absolutely desperate to. Anything half-baked and half-articulated simply won't do.

In John Patrick Shanley's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Netherbow), communication has broken down to such an extent that the two orphans from the urban storm it presents will fight their corner to the death if need be. Passed around the city like dirty postcards, Danny and Roberta meet, as in all love stories, in a bar. Initial hostilities melt into a kindred meeting of minds, followed inevitably by bodies. But in the cold light of day, as the emotional barricades go up once more, the hope for something better, a new way of living, remains.

It is a simple tale of everyday folk, here given a moody production from the director John Mitchell and the combined forces of Edinburgh's own Oxygen House and Merlin companies. Mitchell has transposed Stanley's raw scripts into a fractured Edinburgh vernacular, which gives the play a thrilling universality. Niall Greig Fulton and Gillian Kerr invest the pair of bar-crossed lovers with a brittle and at times brutal sensitivity as their lives threaten to break up.

Ambitious young internationalists Theatre Cryptic have taken the Quebec writer Daniel Danis's dripping heartwrenching play *Celle-Là* (Traverse), about a mother, son and old man living under the same roof, and sprinkled enough gold dust on it to make it their own. Danis's dense, muscular work is quite complex enough as it is, yet adding live chamber music and an opera singer to the adventure playground of a set somehow miraculously works. Clarity of narrative is occasionally lost, but in the main the disparate elements fuse as one.

In *Do You Come Here Often?* (Assembly Rooms) the Right Size fuse elements of stand-up into a welcome narrative structure, as a mismatched pair wake up in a bathroom, where they remain trapped for the next 35 years. What follows is a different kind of toilet humour, as the extremely funny Sean Foley and Hamish McColl introduce the Twilight Zone to Samuel Beckett in a conversation eavesdropped on by Vic Reeves.

NEIL COOPER

Spanish soap washes blacker

YOU begin to twig that this will not be in the great tradition of Edinburgh severity when you are guided to your seat via a room whose exhibits include fake oranges and lemons, a blue-haired mermaid, a TV drizzling on about Valencia, and an enormous wedding cake. Your suspicions are confirmed when you find that a screen fills the stage and you are watching a movie featuring soap-opera characters whose clothes appear to have been jointly designed by Matthe, Gaudi and Edna Everage, and whose hairdos mostly come from Crufts.

Behind those luridly coloured dots and weird diagonal slashes are members of the Catalan company La Cubana, on this showing as exuberant and resourceful a troupe as Auld Reekie can ever have encountered. Again and again living actors leap in and out of the screen in perfect synchrony with their movie selves. At one point a character has a heart-attack in close-up, and a gigantic arm falls onto the stage from his filmed shoulder. But it is the festive, anarchic feel of the happening (sponsored by Standard Life) that justifies carting it from the Mediterranean to the Forth.

The pretence is that a soap is in its last stages of filming. At her birthday do, the Spanish heroine lets loose some doves from the top of her cake, looks up, gets a bird-dropping in the eye, and is blinded. After that she is supposed to be cured by her French lover, who quickly qualifies as an ophthalmologist and personally operates on her: but, before the movie is in the can, chaos breaks out



THEATRE

Blinded by Love
International
Conference Centre

both behind the scenes in the film-studios and in the stalls at the Conference Centre.

One of the plants in the audience rages at the fact that the film's surtitles are not in Catalan and ends up attacking the ushers. Another accuses the men around her of touching her up. Some Spanish football hooligans get into the act. The joke is that the actors on the screen can hear these interruptions. Indeed, they react to them with indignation, for the soap's heroine, a 50-year-old ingénue, is already causing them problems. She has got belatedly pregnant.

apparently by the leading man, and locked herself in her dressing room.

By this time film and play, theatre audience and movie actors are mixing and merging in ways that would have sent Pirandello delirious with disbelief. A psychiatrist comes up from the stalls and through the screen. The director's mum, the projectionist and a toilet attendant all put in noisy appearances. Some spectators are asked to throw flowers, others are invited onstage to dance, and still others, dressed in the purple robes and conical hats of Spanish penitents, meander about in a conga line. The atmosphere, always hectic, gets hysterical.

The only time the pace flagged was when we were asked by José Corbacho's camp film-director to put flattering questions to Anna Barrachina's smirking heroine. The response was minimal: but by that time the people around me had a mugged look. I am not sure that Jordi Milan's production has anything very serious to say about the respective natures of the legitimate and electronic media. But its mischief, energy and technical bravura stunned me too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Souls baring all

COMEDY this year is more in the spirit of Pagliacci than Mr Punch. Soul-baring goes on all round; the Fringe is obviously still cheaper than a course in therapy.

Owen O'Neill is a magnificent comic writer who gives a startling performance as his drunken self. His monologue, *Off My Face* (Assembly Rooms), charts the destructive impact of his own alcoholism and searches for the roots of addiction in his Ulster childhood. The monologue is structured around a series of psychiatric sessions at an alcohol unit. O'Neill, convinced that he has one up on the

COMEDY

psychiatrist to whom he lies persistently, eventually falls from grace in spectacular fashion. This is probably one of the most powerful of pieces on the Fringe.

A different approach to a similar demon is taken by Paul Nichol. The irreverently titled *Fant Nichol is a Spy* (Gilded Balloon) is in many ways the braver piece of work. This is not the show that Nichol planned to do: "My show is always going to be very loose because I haven't written it yet," he explains to the audience. Such lack of foresight is because Nichol has been, by his own calculation, drunk since about 1982. Now sober, albeit temporarily, Nichol has eschewed the role of right-on, pain-sharing lurvie to become a super-offensive maniac. He radiates energy and is magnetic to watch. Even when doubled up with laughter, the audience is not sure whether to be offended or insulted. Nichol is very funny, very twisted, never self-pitying and, owing to a certain amount of audience involvement, now in a position to blackmail me.

It is rare that one comes to curse contact lenses, but had I not been wearing mine I could have become, momentarily, John Hegley's muse. Hegley, poet and Linton's most exciting export, bonds with the bespectacled onstage at the Traverse, imploring them to write words in chalk or draw dogs (surely a sick joke for the myopic?). His new show is touching and autobiographical, following his life from conception to eco-opera lyricist.

The poems and songs dig deep into his Catholic childhood, and the memory of his violent father. After missing his funeral — "Even the one Mass he would have got me to, I managed to avoid" — he experiences a moment of grace years later in a Greek chapel, and lights a candle, "beeswax and slim", in his memory. The anger and sadness that infuse his poetry do not block out the humour, but make it rich.

HETTIE JUDAH

Strange in any language

Dmitry Hvorostovsky gamely stood in at a late stage for an ailing Galina Gorchakova in the Bank of Scotland Queen's Hall recital series, so it might seem ungrateful to question his choice of programme. But why, with appetites whetted by those two names, nothing in Russian? Why a morning devoted entirely to settings in Italian, save for Valentin's aria from *Faust*, especially since his use of the language is little more than workaday?

When the Siberian baritone won the Cardiff Singer of the World competition and Bryn Terfel came second with the Lieder prize, there were some who thought it should have been the other way round, as their subsequent careers have indeed suggested. As if to prove them wrong Hvorostovsky devoted Wednesday morning almost entirely to opera, after the obligatory *aria antica* (thundered Caccini and Cesti). Even in this context his choices seemed odd: Handel's *Ombra mai fu* and Gluck's *Che farò* were written for

CONCERT

Hvorostovsky
Queen's Hall

castrato, not heroic baritone, and the performances inevitably put one in mind of Dr Johnson's views on women preaching. Blustery Mozart — the Count's aria and Giovanni's solos — did little to raise the spirits.

That the Prologue from *Pagliacci* should have been by far the most successful item says it all: here Hvorostovsky could legitimately let rip, show off his forward, beautifully focused tone with its attractively gritty edge, his sense of line, his remarkable breath control and his spilling top G, albeit at a pretty relentless fortissimo. That fortissimo served Gounod and Verdi less well: Valentin's aria sounded less like a prayer than giving the Almighty his marching orders, and there was no question of Don Carlos forgetting this particular Posa in his

death throes — the sheer volume of sound would have been ringing in his ears for months. Freedom of tempo in *Eri tu* from *Ballo in maschera* certainly kept the accompanist Julian Reynolds on his toes, and the encore of *Cortigiani* will have sent the Duke of Mantua's courtiers running for cover. Hvorostovsky is prodigiously gifted, but I honestly didn't feel he did himself justice.

RODNEY MILNES

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SATURDAY 16 AUGUST
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THE CARLSBERG
CONCERT '97
ROD STEWART
SEAL
MARY J BLIGE

10.50PM BBC1
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SONGS & VISIONS
THE CARLSBERG
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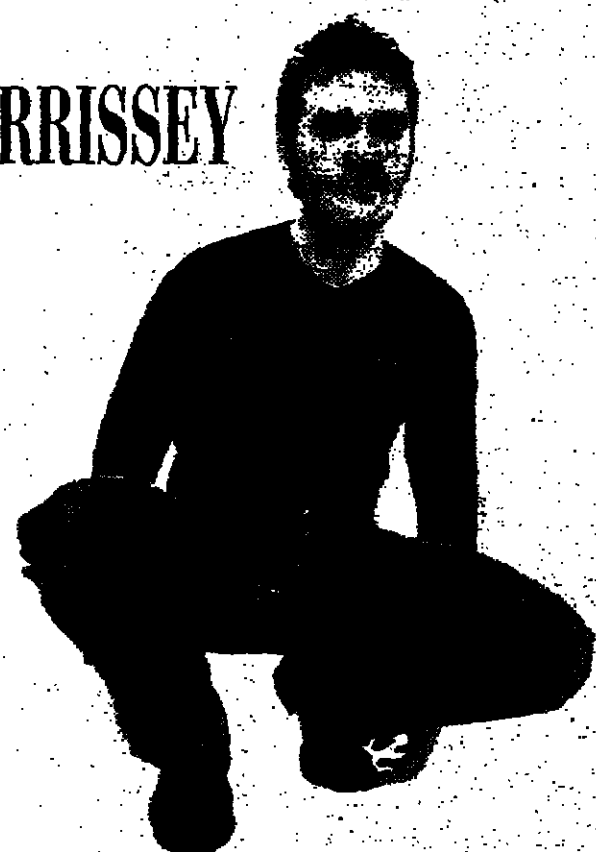
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He loved the guy, so you got the single

Puff Daddy's tribute to The Notorious B.I.G. was one thing. His filling in for his dead mate is another

It is not the point of this column at all, but Wednesday night was a roundly hilarious, Post-Modern, ironic giggle-storm. Oasis's record company arranged what was said to be an exclusive preview of *Be Here Now* in the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Street. The media turnout was top notch — Reuters, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *The Observer*, Radio 1, MTV. Unfortunately, no one had alerted the general public to the wonder-feast. An unseen media scum ensued, with *The Guardian* reduced to interviewing *The Times*, Reuters vox-popping MTV's camera crew, and the 12 members of the public who actually did turn up staring at the camera crews as the camera crews filmed them staring at camera crews.

Of this 12-strong mass, six were German, two clearly insane and the other four "had heard it all last night on Radio 1, but wanted to listen to it here to make sure". Make sure of what?

Of course, one can understand this public confusion a little. After all, Oasis's much-touted *D'you Know What I Mean?* was supposed to be

the biggest single of 1997, its release trumpeted on *News At Ten* and everything. But it still only managed to stay at No 1 for one week before Puff Daddy and Faith Evans's *I'll Be Missing You*, which had already been at No 1 for six weeks before Oasis's "come-back", returned to the top slot. Maybe those wild-eyed fans had hatched sinister conspiracy theory plots in their heads; and feared that Puff Daddy had also taken over the Oasis album, and rapped all over it for a laugh. Who knows what scenarios run through the heads of people willing to trek into the centre of London on the swiftest day of the year in order to hear an album they had taped off the radio the day before?

But back to Puff Daddy. You may be aware that Biggie Smalls, aka The Notorious B.I.G., was shot three months ago in America. So deep was the bond between Puff Daddy and Biggie that, on hearing of the killing, Puff took the Police's *Every Breath You Take*, did a lachrymose rap over it about how much he missed B.I.G., got Biggie's estranged wife Faith Evans to warble meaningfully, and hey presto! No 1 for a million years, and Oasis's comeback marketing campaign shot to pieces.

Little matter that the end result, *I'll Be Missing You*, suspiciously echoed the episode of *The Simpsons* where Bart got stuck down a well and the International Community of Pop Stars rushed up a charity single for him called *We're Sending Our Love Down a Well*. In fact, as Sting sang the lead vocals on *We're Sending Our Love*, and also wrote *Every Breath You Take*, one could almost suspect that Puff was being deliciously ironic.

However, to the relief of Biggie fans everywhere, and of course his record company,



When his close friend The Notorious B.I.G. died, fellow rapper Puff Daddy dried his tears and headed for the mixing desk, samples in hand

Biggie had an album out at the time of his death, from which *Mo'Nasty*, *Mo' Problems* was itself released as a touching tribute single. As it went straight in at No 7 in the chart, *Top of the Pops* had to feature it in some way. However, Biggie had inconsiderately died before he could do a video for the single, so his

good old mate Puff Daddy stepped into the breach. Any suspicions that *I'll Be Missing You* may have been ironic were intensified when Puff and another mate, dressed in silver space suits, tenderly mimed Biggie's hit for him, forming their fingers into gun shapes and repeatedly and rhythmically digging

deep into their pockets to check they still had their house keys. It was one of those television occasions where you can sense a whole country taking a deep breath, muttering about insensitivity, and cursing the fact that they didn't have a blank videotape to hand.

As minds boggled and eyes

popped, the thought occurred to me that there simply isn't enough of this tacky, hysterical Hollywood stuff going on in the music industry at the moment. You can tell there are managers, pop stars and marketing people desperate to indulge in glitzy acts of showbiz neurophilia. There must be hundreds of suits

chewing cigars and mournfully barking: "When did we all get so goddam tasteful? The guy is dead, and he would have wanted a busload of celebrities pretending to cry while singing their current hit at some Wembley 'tribute gig.' After all, the dead like a laugh as much as the rest of us, don't they?"

NEW ALBUMS: Alan Jackson welcomes the return to form of Jesus Jones. Remember them?

New tricks from an old best of breed

JESUS JONES
Already (Food/EMI UK £51.94/£11.99)
AS LEAD singer and songwriter Mike Edwards must be so tired of having pointed out to him, Jesus Jones was the band that seemed to have it all. Leaping from indie status to full-blown stadium draw in what seemed like the blink of an eye, its members saw their second album, 1991's *Doubt*, soar to the top of the British charts, while the radio-friendly single *Right Here, Right Now* climbed to the dizzy heights of No 2 in America.

But then it all deflated, and almost as quickly, Break-ups personal and professional, a third album that was deemed

a failure for selling a comparatively woeful half a million copies, a projected follow-up rejected by the band's record label because of a lack of that old-fashioned ingredient, decent tunes... nothing, it appeared, was going right for Jesus Jones.

But eventually and, apparently, after various false starts, things are back on track. Nowadays, of course, everyone and his dog incorporates samples and breakbeats into their pop-rock, à la early Jesus Jones, so their unique selling point is no more. Luckily, Edwards has always had something else up his sleeve — the ability to pen clever, quirky and insidiously commercial songs.

The opener, ironically titled *The Next Big Thing*, deserves to be a runaway hit, and there is much else to enjoy on

Already, already. As George Michael would say, listen without prejudice.

SOUL COUGHING
Irresistible Bliss (Slash/London 828 759-2, £11.49)
WHEN New York's *Village Voice* newspaper conducted its annual nationwide poll of 350 music writers to determine 1994's album of the year, the debut *Ruby Vroom* by this American four-piece emerged the clear victor.

Two albums later, their mix of beat poetry, rock and dance beats is a commercial winner too — back home at any rate. Britain has yet to succumb to their downbeat charm (frontman M. Doughty sings with a tranquillised air that makes *Tindersticks* sound sprightly by comparison), and it is hard to see *Irresistible*

Bliss changing that situation, for all its originality and invention.

With repeated play, the 12 tracks (must-listen titles include *Paint*, *Disseminated* and *Collaps*) begin to assert a hypnotic pull. And, yes, study of their lyrics does reveal a satisfyingly mordant wit (imagine the likes of Ben Folds Five in a straitjacket and under heavy medication, and you get something of the Soul Coughing flavour).

Plus, if a nation with an even shorter attention span than our own can take them to their hearts, shouldn't we be able to do so too? But on the other hand — the New Miserabilism? It's hardly the sound of summer.

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE MELODY MAKERS
Fallen is Babylon (Elektra 7559-62032-2, £15.49)
AS Julian Lennon might also vouchsafe, having a much loved, late and critically sainted father is a double-edged sword. Ziggy Marley's first steps into the recording world triggered a groundswell of affection and goodwill, but convincing the listening public that he is his own man, not just a pale substitute for Bob, was bound to prove difficult indeed.

On the evidence of *Fallen is Babylon* though, it is more than time for young Ziggy to receive recognition in his own right. In collaboration with brother Stephen (also a writer and, on *Long Winter*, an effective lead singer too) and

Too good for rent-a-crowd

LIVE GIG
RIGHT now, Travis are probably one of the most envied bands in the country. First, Noel Gallagher started citing the Glaswegians as his favourite new band and kept showing up at their gigs. Now Gallagher has invited them to open for Oasis on their tour next month.

At London's Astoria Travis came onstage after Yellow Monkey, a Japanese metal band apparently capable of selling out ten nights at one of Tokyo's most prestigious venues. Yellow Monkey flew in hundreds of Japanese fans for the show, which was being filmed, so Travis were able to headline at a venue they would not otherwise have been able to fill.

Even though some of the Japanese fans filed straight on to their waiting coaches as soon as Yellow Monkey had finished their set, most of them were curious enough to stick around for the headliners. Fortunately, Travis have a lively stage presence and enough stomping great songs — particularly the second of their three singles, *All I Want to Do is Rock* — to keep a rock-hungry crowd happy.

They are at their best, though, when they show their most subtle side. Their best song to date is *Funny Thing*, an aching ballad capable of sending shivers up the most

inflexible spine. However, it proved a bit too sensitive for a few people in the Astoria crowd, who lobbed empty beer cans at the stage. The members of Travis took it well, though, shrugging the missiles aside and following up with the rousing pop song, *Happy*.

But singer Fran Healy showed how determined he is to make people actually listen to his best songs by bravely returning to the stage alone to play an acoustic number. Fortunately, he is blessed with a voice that is capable of forcing even the most indifferent into submission. After winning over a crowd like this, those Oasis supports should be a cinch.

ANN SCANLON

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SONGS & VISIONS
THE CARLSBERG
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TONI BRAXTON
KDLANG
STEVE WINWOOD

TOP TEN ALBUMS	
1	White on Blonde... Texas (Mercury)
2	The Fat of the Land... Prodigy (XL Recordings)
3	Backstreet's Back... Backstreet Boys (Jive)
4	OK Computer... Radiohead (Parlophone)
5	Spice... Spice Girls (Virgin)
6	Love For Ever... Billy Ocean (Jive)
7	Sheep Crow... Sheryl Crow (A&M)
8	Do It Yourself... Seahorses (Geffen)
9	Essentials... David Gates & Bread (Warner ESP/Jive)
10	No Way Out... Puff Daddy & The Family (Puff Daddy)

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Can we improve on the gold standard?

Britain should expect much more of its sixth-formers. Ron McLone on the need for a new broader-based qualification

They are the gold standard of British education. But can we do better than gold? The Dearing report on education for 16 to 19-year-olds expresses concerns that over-specialisation of A-level courses serves neither the candidates for university, nor those who choose to end their education at 18, nor the nation. Which begs the question: whom does the A level serve?

Other countries do not feel the need to specialise so young. The French have their baccalaureat. The International Baccalaureate, together with the competing Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) produced in Britain by the Cambridge Board, are respected throughout the world.

Dearing is only the latest in a long line to draw this conclusion. The last Government developed plans to replace A levels with a broader AICE-style qualification. But the Conservatives proved unable to convince people that the well-established quality of A levels could be maintained. The question should be: can we create a British Bac that builds on the strengths of the current arrangements?

There is much to be said for broadening the area of post-16 study, as required by the predecessor of the A levels, the Higher Schools' Certificate. The decision to concentrate on just three subjects was made to help to prepare candidates for the specialisation of English universities. But not all A-level candidates want to go to university. Today it is less of an entrance exam for higher education and much more like a school-

leaving exam, preparing students for the world of employment. Candidates who see A levels as the culmination of 13 years of education would benefit more from challenging, rigorous and wide-ranging study than from concentrating on just three, often very similar, subjects.

Why does it continue? The answer is that most students make their A-level choices with at least the possibility of further study in mind. The system operated by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) assumes that candidates will take three subjects, so that is precisely what most people do. There is no reason why we should not expect more from our sixth-formers. Commentators estimate that the French Bac is as demanding as five A levels, and in Singapore most candidates take five A levels. That's five of our British A levels.

Surely British teenagers are as able and as hard-working as their Singaporean or French counterparts? So the broadening of the curriculum can be achieved without abandoning the rigour, objectivity and consistency of A-level examinations.

There are plans to pilot Key Skills in Communication, IT and Use of Number, from this September. But our contact with teachers and students suggests that without Ucas points attached, these qualifications are unlikely to be taken seriously. If the Government regards these courses as important then it should reach an agreement with Ucas, and the universities, to make them a requirement for



More and more, A levels are seen as a school-leaving exam preparing students for the world of employment

university entry. Surely key skills are critical? Whether people intend to be lawyers or work in retail or manufacturing, the ability to communicate, to understand numbers and to handle computers are certain to be increasingly important over the coming decades.

If the review of 16 to 19 education is to succeed, it must encompass the needs of all students seeking advanced study, whether academic or vocational. General national vocational qualifications (GNVQs) should be just as demanding for students preparing for further study or the world of work. The

challenge is not to segregate areas of study rigidly into "academic" or "vocational" but to encourage a mix of theoretical and practical skills in a range of subjects. Students are not so easily pushed into boxes of central government design, to which Dearing might have led us.

The emphasis on the students' "portfolio", the GNVQ's most positive aspect, motivated students of all abilities. This is one pointer to the way forward, as would be ensuring that A level and GNVQ modules can be interchangeable. Perhaps we should also ask whether the concept of key skills needs to be

extended. This nation is poor at languages. Maybe all 16 to 19-year-olds should study a foreign tongue?

A view of A levels as representing a gold standard - immutable, pure and unimprovable - is now being widely questioned by educationists and politicians alike. The quest for a widely valued new qualification occupies all of us charged with securing the best for our nation's future.

Dr Ron McLone is convenor-elect of the Joint Forum of the Examination Boards and head of UK exams policy, University of Cambridge Local Exams Syndicate.

Chris Ramsey is tired of doom and gloom

The pupils are up to scratch

It is the season for beating of breasts: A-level results have been published. Already, in *The Times* (August 1) Jim Brennan has written about falling standards, and his comments will doubtless be echoed in phone-ins and common rooms. Some of my own colleagues will echo last year's cynical witicism. "A-level results: not as good as I had feared".

Some of what such remarks imply is true, and there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest plummeting standards: the inability of some A-level candidates to cope with old O-level papers; essay work which looks shoddy but seems to achieve high grades; papers which are shorter, but wordier, more visual, simpler in layout. Yet to condemn standards as "falling" is too glib. It can surely be no more true to say that pupils are stupider now than ten, or 20, or 50 years ago, than to say they are cleverer. They are different. They have blindspots their parents would have been ashamed of, and competences their parents could not have aspired to.

As a recently appointed principal examiner in languages, I have heard the sighs of some of my predecessors. ("Good grief, can't these candidates even translate/scan/spell?") Who can resist mocking candidates who write that "Emma Bovary is a bit of loser", or a character as "nice".

It is true, then, that today's sixth-formers cannot write? The complaint that grammar has gone to the dogs is understandable, but inaccurate. Melanie Phillips, whose *All Must Have Prizes* has convinced many of impending doom, talks of the "revolt against grammar".

But there is as much anecdotal evidence of good English as bad. One essay I marked this year concluded: "Candidate is rooted in its time, but raises questions which are still central to us: it is a text about what it is to be a human being, and for this, if for no other reason, it has survived." This seems to me to be the model of clarity. Perhaps the proliferation of syllabuses and subjects simply means that talents are spread more thinly. Some candidates structure, spell

and write badly; there are dreadful howlers. But is it fair for constructive) to ridicule slips made under exam pressure? Most sixth-formers read and digest far more than ever they did in the golden past. This must be good. As for structuring of essays, the evidence is that this is improving, as exam boards publish more detailed reports, and teachers take more notice of them.

Last year a retiring teacher of French wrote of her depression that students could not cope with dictation or translation: such moaning is disingenuous. A-level linguists can do other (better?) things: the successful ones can listen to extended passages of French and make sense of them. They can respond in French. They can conduct conversations about current affairs. They have still read literature in most cases (though not perhaps so much), and they will have had to discuss it in the language of its author.

Saying they cannot deal with dictation or prose is like criticising T.S. Eliot for an inability to write sonnets, or Stravinsky for imperfect technique in the realm of comic opera.

What is true of French is true of mathematics, of history, of most subjects. Focuses have shifted, new demands are being made. A 1997 student of history makes deductions from documents; a mathematician is familiar with Chaos Theory. Other things - the things which were considered important in the past - are sacrificed.

So beware of those who say standards are falling, and especially those who pick the soft target of grammar. When all exams simply consisted of essay writing and translation, they were easy to crib, as any 19th-century school story shows. A friend of Robert Bridges told him: "In exams, people who do not wish to know ask questions of those who cannot tell." Too many "old-style" examinations could have been thus described.

It is not, as Ms Phillips's title has it, that "all must have prizes", but more that a few must get more than something out of school.

The author is head of modern languages at Wellington College, Berkshire.

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UNIVERSITY DEGREE VACANCIES 1997: ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEGREE vacancies in arts and social sciences appear today for students aiming to secure a last-minute place at university or college.

The listings have been updated following a rush for places yesterday and, although popular courses are filling fast, there are several late additions to the list.

Courses added today include history at Swansea, German at Sheffield and law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London.

A full list of up-to-date degree vacancies in engineering, technology and science will be published tomorrow.

The Times on Monday will feature a fully updated list of degree course vacancies.

An asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes. All other courses are identified by the codes used in the UCAS handbook.

ACCOUNTANCY

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Aberystwyth, N400.
Aston, N420.
Barnsley, N400.
Birmingham, N400, N401, N402, N403, N404, N405, N406, N407, N408, N409, N410, N411, N412, N413, N414, N415, N416, N417, N418, N419, N420, N421, N422, N423, N424, N425, N426, N427, N428, N429, N430, N431, N432, N433, N434, N435, N436, N437, N438, N439, N440, N441, N442, N443, N444, N445, N446, N447, N448, N449, N450, N451, N452, N453, N454, N455, N456, N457, N458, N459, N460, N461, N462, N463, N464, N465, N466, N467, N468, N469, N470, N471, N472, N473, N474, N475, N476, N477, N478, N479, N480, N481, N482, N483, N484, N485, N486, N487, N488, N489, N490, N491, N492, N493, N494, N495, N496, N497, N498, N499, N500, N501, N502, N503, N504, N505, N506, N507, N508, N509, N510, N511, N512, N513, N514, N515, N516, N517, N518, N519, N520, N521, N522, N523, N524, N525, N526, N527, N528, N529, N530, N531, N532, N533, N534, N535, N536, N537, N538, N539, N540, N541, N542, N543, N544, N545, N546, N547, N548, N549, N550, N551, N552, N553, N554, N555, N556, N557, N558, N559, N560, N561, N562, N563, 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CRICKET

Relentless Donald flies home with five more wickets

By SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire beat Sussex by 105 runs

ANOTHER highly professional day's cricket from Warwickshire saw them comfortably through to their fifth NatWest Trophy final in nine years yesterday. They squeezed Sussex until the pips squeaked, the grip being most firmly applied by Allan Donald, who bowled fast and straight to take five of the eight wickets to fall.

Warwickshire face dilem-

mas over selection and diplomacy between now and the final against Essex on September 6. Munton, their official captain who has not played this year, is unlikely to be fit but Knight, the vice-captain, probably will be. He is planning to return to first-team cricket next week, seven weeks after breaking a finger.

Making room for Knight,

who had a net on the outfield yesterday after the game had finished at 1.30pm, would probably entail dropping

Moles, who has made important runs in this and earlier rounds, and demoting Smith from the captaincy.

While Knight is manifestly still learning the skills of leadership, Smith has taken the team, with quiet efficiency, to ten wins in 11 one-day matches this season.

Smith is also, as far as this competition is concerned, the most experienced member of the team, being the only one to have played in the four previous finals dating back to 1989, when he hit the winning runs against Middlesex.

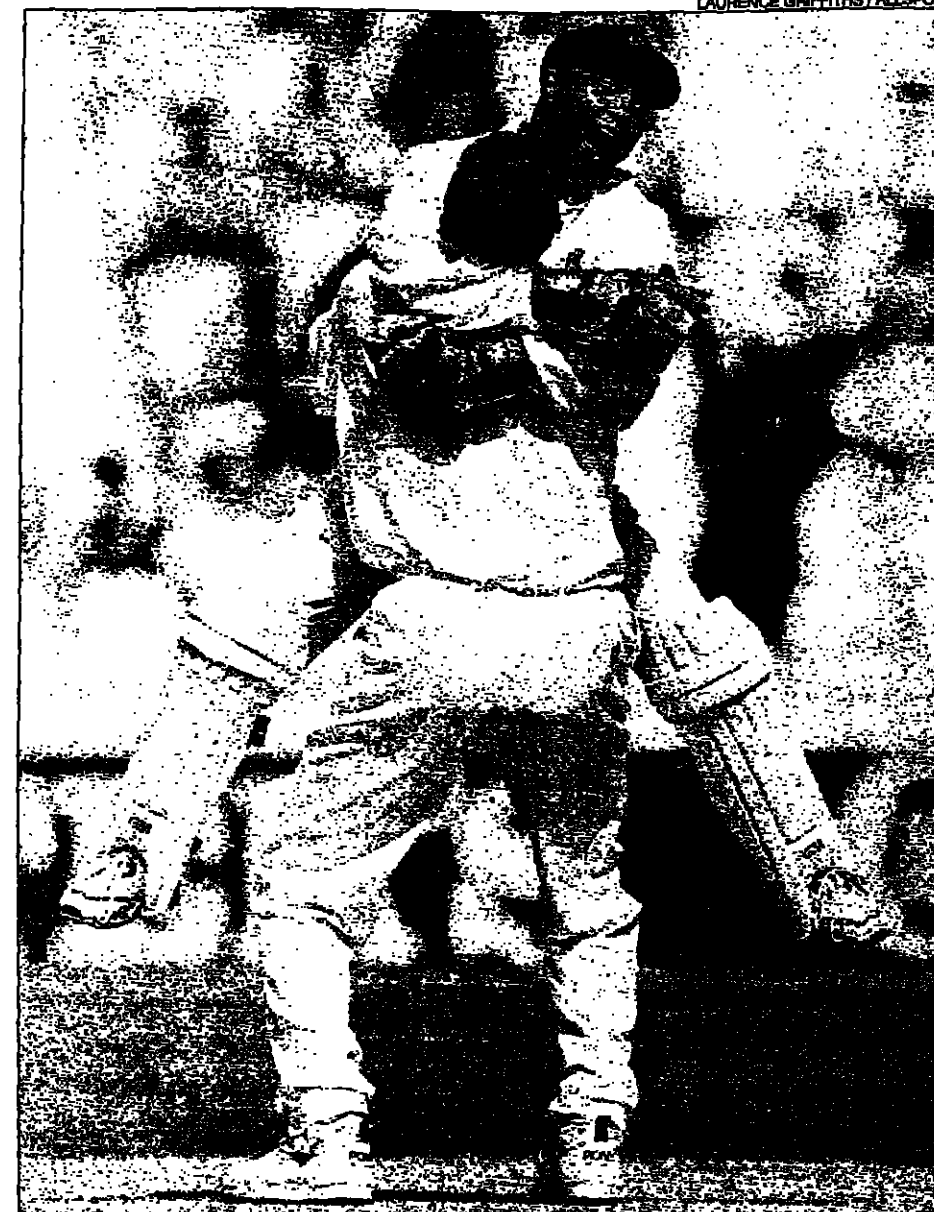
Yesterday he added to his 72 runs with the bat by bowling seven niggardly overs for the wicket of Drakes, whose demise — chipping a catch to deep mid-on — signalled the end of Sussex's slender hopes.

With Sussex resuming at 43 for two, needing another 300 from 49 overs, Donald was clearly fired up from the moment he began the first over of the day and generated considerable pace.

He has an outstanding record in 60-overs cricket and has now taken 72 wickets at 13 apiece in 28 matches, including a record five five-wicket hauls. He has played in only two finals, though, those of 1989 and 1995. He went home before the 1993 final and did not play county cricket in 1994.

Three of Sussex's four leading scorers had their stumps sent flying by Donald. They went in his third over, via an inside edge, Mark Newell, for a fighting 79, and Moores for 45. Newell and Moores put on 46 in eight overs for the seventh wicket, but by then the cause was hopeless.

The required run rate was six an over when play resumed and rose inexorably, by the time Moores was last man out, to the first ball of the 54th over, it had climbed to 15. Sussex, all out for 237, were



Donald is locked in an enthusiastic embrace by Piper after taking his final wicket

105 runs short of their target; they had simply allowed Warwickshire to score too many runs.

Donald also contributed to the run-out of Taylor in the eleventh over of the day. By then, the pressure for quick

runs had built up to such an extent that Mark Newell and Taylor were prepared to contemplate a single to Penney in the covers. Thinking better of it, Taylor was beaten home by the direct hit by half the length of the pitch.

Sussex were then 73 for four. Newell put on 49 with his older brother, Keith, who was bowled trying to make room to drive Giles through the covers, and 25 with Drakes, but runs were coming in singles rather than the boundaries that were essential if a plausible challenge was to be mounted. Mark Newell, in fact, hit only five fours from the 113 balls that he faced during his innings.

Donald, who also accounted for Jarvis and Khan, took the last four wickets of the innings in five overs and, it transpired, had good reason to work quickly. He had a plane to catch to South Africa and needed to be away by three o'clock. He is due to receive an award from Nelson Mandela this evening.

SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

WARWICKSHIRE		SUSSEX	
A J Moles bowled by Drakes	56	C W J Alley bowled by Donald	20
W M K Smith c Piper b K Newell	117	R K Khan c Drakes b Drakes	0
M Newell b Donald	79	M Newell b Donald	79
N R Taylor run out	12	N R Taylor run out	12
K Newell b Giles	12	K Newell b Giles	12
V C Drakes c Kemp b Smith	15	V C Drakes c Kemp b Smith	15
P P Ooster b Drakes	38	P P Ooster b Drakes	38
T L Palmer not out	20	T L Palmer not out	20
Extras (lb 9, w 11)	20	Extras (lb 2, w 10)	12
Total (68 wickets, 60 overs)	342	Total (53.1 overs)	237
D H Brown, G Welch, A F Giles, TK J Piper, G C Small and A A Donald did not bat		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-12, 3-53, 4-73, 5-122, 6-147, 7-193, 8-221, 9-233	
BOWLING: Drakes 12-5-36-2; Jarvis 10-0-78-0; Robinson 12-1-34-0; K Newell 10-0-42-1; Khan 8-0-69-0; Greenfield 8-0-54-0		BOWLING: Welch 10-1-45-1; Brown 8-0-29-0; Giles 15-0-70-1; Donald 10-1-37-5; Small 6-0-21-0; Smith 7-0-30-1	
SUSSEX		Umpires: J H Hampshire and K E Palmer	
K Greenfield run out	5		

Young answers call to arms from Australia

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EGLINTON (Australians won toss): The Australians beat Ireland by 141 runs

BEFORE an appreciative crowd of 3,000 happy cricket lovers, who ringed this cosy club ground just outside Londonderry, the Australians enjoyed a cosy win in keeping with the social nature of their trip. This mini-break was a reward for "good conduct", wrapping up the Ashes series with a Test to spare, and they returned to England refreshed in more senses than one.

It was not an entirely frivolous jaunt. Before the start of play they learnt that Brendon Julian, their left-arm medium pace bowler, who was preparing to play in the final Test, will not be available. Julian was injured at Trent Bridge and discovered yesterday that he has fractured the wrist of his bowling arm.

With Jason Gillespie also injured, and Paul Reifel back home in Melbourne, the touring team have called up Shaun Young, the Tasmania all-rounder, who is spending the summer with Gloucestershire. Young will play against Kent at Canterbury this weekend.

Nobody is pretending that Young is a Test class first-change bowler, and the Australians are hoping that Shane Lee, the New South Wales all-rounder, who is playing for Enfield in the Lancashire League, will also join them on stand-by.

But before they can down to the serious business, the Australians are enjoying a few days R and R. Ricky Ponting, one of the more accomplished golfers in the team, shot a 69 on the team hotel's course on Wednesday, despite dropping strokes on the last two holes, and yesterday he took 117 unbeaten runs off the Ireland bowlers.

It was a homecoming of sorts for the Tasmania batsman, whose grandmother, Jean, left Ulster 59 years ago at the age of 11. Before the start of play yesterday he met her sisters, Betty and Mary, who

still live in Belfast, and who became Australians for the day. Their great-nephew did not let them down, scoring that hundred and taking three wickets.

The early stages of the Australians' innings resembled a beer match. Slater went in the first over and when Mark Waugh was stumped, charging the left-arm spin of Greg Molins, the touring party had gifted four more wickets and put only 116 on the board. Ponting made reparations, striking six sixes and 10 fours in his innings, and needing only 99 balls to do it.

The total was too daunting for the Ireland batsmen. Decker Curry, their powerful opener, fell in McGrath's third over and nobody could get a start. But this was essentially a day for making friends and the Australian players signed autographs for spectators who were clearly delighted to see them. The behaviour was a good deal more wholesome than it has been on many English grounds this summer.

AUSTRALIANS		IRELAND	
M T G Elliott c Patterson b Cooke	28	D Curry c Barry b McGrath	12
G J Slater c Lewis b Cooke	0	A Patterson b McGrath	12
M J Stewart c Joyce b Healy	44	A Lewis c Barry b Kasprowicz	12
M E Waugh c Robinson b Molins	32	E Joyce c Langer b Bennett	6
M G Devin c Molins b McGrath	27	J D R Barron c Barry b Ponting	8
J Langer c Patterson b Curry	9	D Healy c Barry b Ponting	7
R T Ponting not out	117	J Day c Barry b Ponting	0
A A Taylor c Molins b Curry	9	C Cooke c Welch b Langer	26
S B Barry not out	1	JA Robinson b Slater	0
Extras (lb 2, w 6, nb 5)	13	G Molins not out	0
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	308	G Molins c Welch b Taylor	0
M S Kasprowicz and G D McGrath did not bat		Extras (lb 4, w 6, w 12, nb 6)	28
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-62, 3-82, 4-114, 5-116, 6-266, 7-268		Total (45.2 overs)	164
BOWLING: Cooke 10-0-45-2; Day 7-0-33-0; Molins 10-0-36-1; Healy 10-0-67-2; Curry 10-0-40-2; Joyce 3-0-30-0		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-33, 4-44, 5-66, 6-84, 7-85, 8-161, 9-163	
		BOWLING: McGrath 4-0-12-2; Kasprowicz 8-0-25-1; Bennett 7-1-18-1; Barry 5-0-13-6; Ponting 10-1-14-3; Elliott 9-0-15-0; Slater 7-0-31-4; Langer 4-0-23-1; Taylor 0-0-1-1	

Championship acts as spur for Glamorgan

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT COULD be said that Glamorgan's biggest occasion of the season has already passed them by this week, that they blew it in acrimonious defeat at Chelmsford. For men craving recognition at team and individual level, though, today is just as significant.

The NatWest Trophy is now heading elsewhere, but Glamorgan still have the greater prize of the county championship to pursue and more than one of their players has England ambitions. Much will be decided over the next four days at Worcester.

Among the spectators at New Road today will be David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, and David Lloyd, the England coach. Their presence is a mark of the progress that Glamorgan have made and, specifically, of how close the pragmatic, prolific batting of Steve James has brought him to a first Test cap.

Tomorrow night, the selectors choose a squad for the final Ashes Test at the Oval.

Alec Stewart and Darren Gough will feature and James has an outside chance. The same must now be said of Robert Croft, whose springtime buoyancy has, with declining returns, given way to a tense, troubled demeanour — not helped by his unedifying shoving match with a good friend at Chelmsford.

Croft may learn today what punishment the England and Wales Cricket Board will add to the £1,000 he was fined by Glamorgan yesterday. The good name of cricket demands that he and Mark Illott must face some sanction. He is also likely to learn that he will be "rested" at the Oval.

Glamorgan have failed to win their past two games and have lost the leadership of the Britannic Assurance championship table to Kent. Derbyshire welcome back Dominic Cork against Lancashire. At Portsmouth, Hampshire give a first-class debut to Lee Seavid, 20, an all-rounder, who becomes the first Channel Islander to play championship cricket.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

Fantasy Formula One race hot up for our £25,000 top prize

FANTASY
FORMULA ONE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
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CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM



THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26 will win £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the best score at the Belgian GP wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. The runner-up will receive a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT BUDAPEST

Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Schumacher 30 points; 2nd J Villeneuve 25; 3rd D Hill 24; 4th M Hakkinen 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th H-H Frenzen 21; 7th G Berger 20; 8th D Coulthard 19; 9th J Alesi 18; 10th J Herbert 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th J Trulli 15; 13th G Fisichella 14; 14th R Schumacher 13; 15th G Morbidelli 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th J Magnussen 10; 18th J Verstappen 9; 19th P Diniz 8; 20th U Katayama 7. (G Morbidelli returns for Sauber, replacing N Fontana.)

Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd D Hill 50; 3rd J Herbert 40; 4th M Schumacher 30; 5th R Schumacher 28; 6th S Nakano 28; 7th J Trulli 27; 8th G Berger 26; 9th E Irvine 25; 10th U Katayama 24; 11th J Alesi 23; 12th T Marques 22; 13th M Salo 21. (Only 13 finished. E Irvine was classified although he did not finish the race.)

Lap points (one point for each lap completed): J Villeneuve 77 points; D Hill 77; J Herbert 77; M Schumacher 77; R Schumacher 77; S Nakano 77; J Trulli 77; G Berger 77; E Irvine 76; U Katayama 76; J Alesi 76; T Marques 75; M Salo 75; D Coulthard 65; J Verstappen 61; P Diniz 53; G Fisichella 42; R Barrichello 29; H-H Frenzen 29; M Hakkinen 12;

G Morbidelli 7; J Magnussen 5. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): U Katayama 30 points; S Nakano 30; T Marques 30; R Schumacher 27; M Salo 24; J Herbert 21; J Trulli 15; D Hill 3; J Villeneuve 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix: H-H Frenzen 10 points. Penalty points. Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): E Irvine -10 points; M Hakkinen -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frenzen -10; D Coulthard -10; J Verstappen -10; P Diniz -10; G Fisichella -10; G Morbidelli -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Prost 21 points; Williams 20; Benetton 19; Minardi 17; Arrows 15; Sauber 14; Ferrari 13; Jordan 12; Tyrrell 4. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Stewart -20; Williams -10; Ferrari -10; Jordan -10; Arrows -10; Sauber -10; Tyrrell -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The Hungarian Grand Prix has produced a new leader at the top of our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard: D Gwilt of Wolverhampton, manager of the Gwilt F1 team, scored 744 points in Budapest to take his cumulative score in the competition to 7,943 points. He displaces L Ackland from Guildford, Surrey who led the race for our £25,000 top prize for the past several weeks. Ackland's team, Aston O, scored 599 points in last week's Hungarian Grand Prix to take his total points to 7,932 in the competition.

D Aydon, of Cardiff, wins a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix. His team, Hamer's Rally, has 6,161 points in the competition. He scored 984 points in Budapest. C Wilkins from Calne, Wilts, has 6,865 points overall and wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. His team, Red Heat, scored 772 points last Sunday.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you make your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Belgian Grand Prix and other grands prix where bonus points apply.

TRANSFERS Change up to five selections to feature in the Belgian Grand Prix by calling 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311) or 994 ex UK before noon on Thursday, August 21.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK).

CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. The cumulative score for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish in that race. All entrants' scores are correct.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Gwilt F1	Mr D G Gwilt	7943
2	Aston O	L Ackland	7932
3	Dragon Racing	R Davis	7901
4	Smith-Astra	Mr D R Smith	7885
5	CoolSport	Mr D A Coolican	7880
6	Parkhurst Racing	Mr L Danson	7874
7	The Tigglers	Mr R	7810
8	Cathy's Clowns	Mrs C Robinson	7810
9	Bazzotti Racing	Mr A M Scott	7810
10	F1 Erb	Mr S Erhorn	7810
11	Becks Racing Team	Mr M W Kingdon	7807
12	Dow Jones 2	Mr I Dowty	7795
13	Scuderia Vincitore	Mr S J Lorenti	7794
14	Sour Mash	Mr R Owens	7766
15	Cartell Racing	Mr S Dimetto	7762
16	F1 Autopoint	Mr C L Russell	7759
17	Slackhead 3	Mr A J Bradley	7758
18	Formula Uno	Mr P Tabone	7727
19	Will And Nerve	Mr A C Mewes	7725
20	Go Speed Racer	Mr L C Gardner	7713
21	Freaks	Mr F Retkowsky	7704
22	Meadows Racing	Mr R Osker	7696
23	Midnight Ravers	Mr C J Newman	7691
24	Cyclops	Mr R Bohee	7691

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Hungarian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS		CONSTRUCTORS	
GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
01 D Hill 154 752	13 J Trulli 184 1244	25 Williams 20 127 31 Arrows 15 34	31 Prost 12 134 36 Lola 0 0
02 M Schumacher 137 1334	14 J Verstappen 60 773	26 Ferrari 13 189 32 Sauber 14 112	
03 J Villeneuve 165 1094	15 U Katayama 137 884	27 McLaren 20 94 33 Tyrrell 4 0	
04 E Irvine 113 979	16 P Diniz 51 530	28 Benetton 18 204 34 Minardi 17 36	
05 J Alesi 117 1208	17 R Schumacher 146 809	29 Jordan 12 106 35 Stewart 20 119	
06 G Berger 123 921	18 R Schumacher 146 809		
07 M Hakkinen 25 870	19 F Fisichella 48 903		
08 D Coulthard 74 872	20 S Nakano 148 835		
09 R Barrichello 35 521	21 G Morbidelli 9 940		
10 H-H Frenzen 50 888	22 T Marques 127 726		
11 J Herbert 165 908	23 J Magnussen 5 515		
12 M Salo 120 888	24 V Sospiri 0 0		

ASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

FOOTBALL

Derby left red-faced by blackout

By Richard Hobson

THE power failure that forced the abandonment of Derby County's first league game at the £19.5 million Pride Park Stadium was described yesterday as "a station control nightmare" by Sergeant Colin Nellist, the liaison officer between the police and the club.

As Derby officials began an internal inquiry into the incident on Wednesday night, which halted Derby's FA Cup Premier League match with Wimbledon after 56 minutes' play, the true scale of the problem emerged. An emergency power supply, primed to start seven seconds after a breakdown, failed along with the main electrical source and the crowd of 24,516 could not be informed of developments because the public address system was also affected.

It appears that safety lighting in corridors and toilets was extinguished and certain concourses were plunged into total darkness. The police declared an "emergency situation" in consultation with the club, a state that means the police take over public address announcements.

David Johnson, a spectator, said: "It was like being down a mine in parts of the ground. Thankfully, there was no major disaster, but there was potential for real trouble."

Sgt Nellist added: "Almost everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. I will not say it is teething trouble, because that is too cheap an explanation."

Derby led Wimbledon 2-1 when the power was lost. Uriah Rennie, the referee, abandoned the match at 9.30pm, about 30 minutes after the blackout, having consulted the police match commander and the ground safety officer. Lighting was restored from the emergency power source two minutes

later, before the crowd had been informed of the decision. The FA Premier League received the referee's report yesterday and could fine the club.

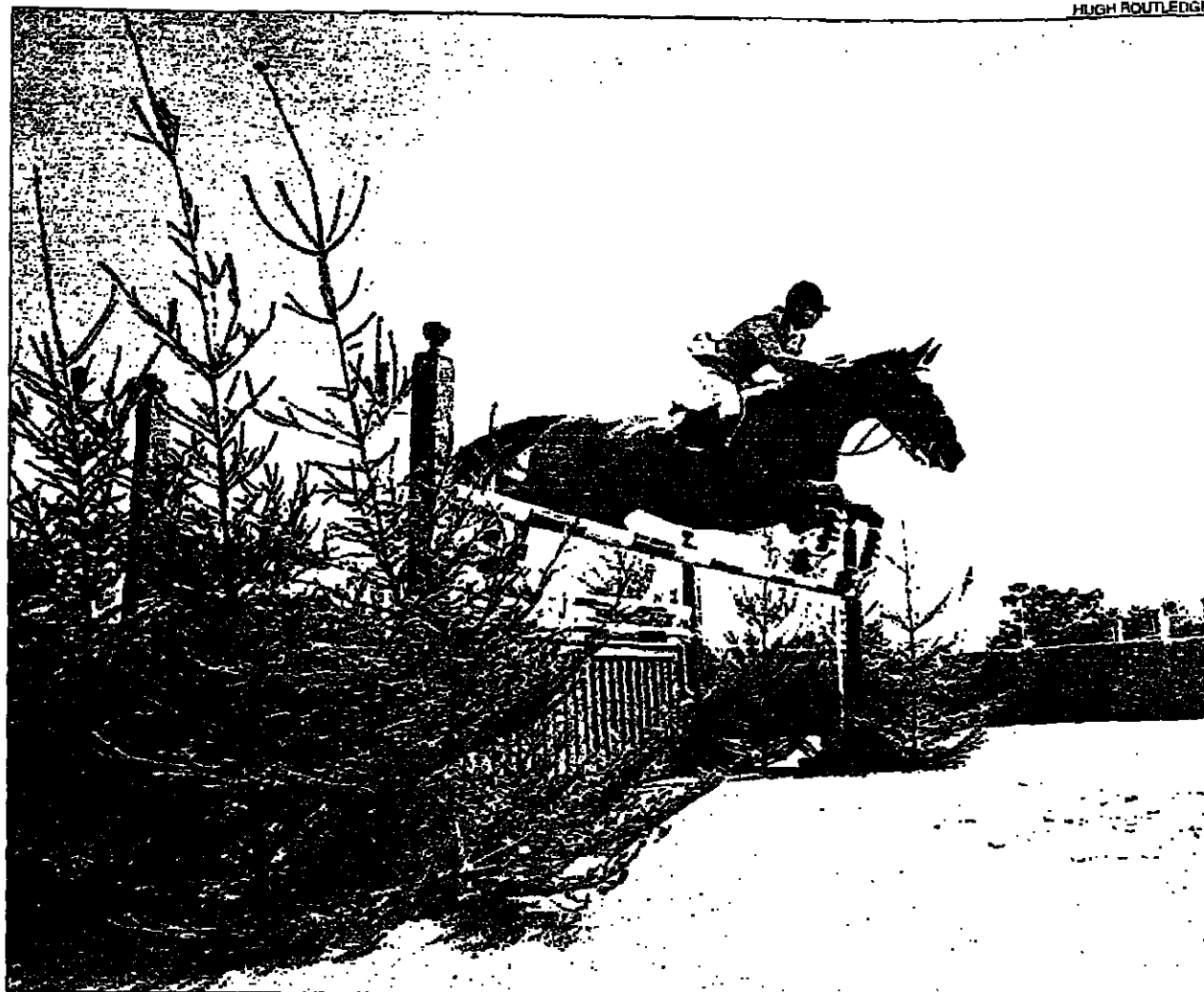
The ground passed stringent safety tests before its first match, a pre-season meeting with Sampdoria nine days earlier, as well as routine checks before the fixture on Wednesday. Mike Kay, the chairman of the Derby City Council safety advisory group, said: "Technically, it is one of the best grounds in the country from a safety point of view, but there are some things that make sure are put right."

Nigel Spackman, the caretaker manager of Sheffield United, is likely to be given the job on a full-time basis tomorrow. United have called a press conference to clarify Spackman's position at Bramall Lane.

John Hartson, the West Ham United striker, is out of Wales's World Cup qualifying match in Turkey next Wednesday after picking up a knee injury in the 2-1 Premiership win over Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday night.

Portsmouth have signed their fifth Australian player in four weeks. Craig Foster, 28, who has moved to Fratton Park for £200,000 from the Sydney club, Marconi, has followed John Aloisi, Hamilton Thorp, Robbie Enes and Zeljko Kalac to the Nationwide League first division club, whose chairman, Terry Venables, is also the coach of the Australia national team. Enes and Kalac have yet to be granted work permits.

Howard Wilkinson, the technical director of the Football Association, has taken over as coach of the England Under-18 team. He succeeds David Burnside and Ted Powell.



Armstrong and Primma, the Derby Tankard winners, in perfect harmony at one of Hickstead's stiffest fences

Armstrong planning to avoid drop

By Jenny MacArthur

MARK ARMSTRONG gained a measure of consolation for narrowly missing a place in the Great Britain team for the European showjumping championships later this month by winning the Derby Tankard, the opening event of the four-day British Derby meeting, at Hickstead yesterday.

Armstrong, riding Primma, a Belgian-bred mare, won his first international class at the famous Sussex arena with dismissive ease. In a seven-horse jump-off, he relegated Erik Holstein, of Ireland, on Ballasey Kalosha, to second place by a margin of 2.45sec.

"She's a brave, scopey horse," Armstrong said of the nine-year-old Primma, who had demonstrated those qualities in the team trials for the

European championships. After four consistent performances, Armstrong finished fourth in a league from which the top three gained automatic selection.

"It was very disappointing — I had planned my whole season round the trials," Armstrong said. "But I had my chance and I missed it."

He knows the vicissitudes of the sport better than most. Brought up on a farm in Devon, he was given his first pony at the age of seven to help restore his confidence after an accident as a toddler, when he was knocked down by a horse that then trod on his face. "My parents just wanted to make sure I wasn't frightened of horses. They tried to deter me when I became hooked," he said.

After learning his trade at the Hampshire yard of Fred

Welch — where he was based for six years — his breakthrough came with the arrival of a mare, Corolla, in 1992.

An "out and out" winner, she and Armstrong were selected for the team for the 1993 European championships in which Britain won a team silver medal. Armstrong's stay in the top echelon was short-lived, however. Four months after winning the medal, the mare dropped dead from a brain haemorrhage while at the Bordeaux Show.

"It was devastating. I knew it was a question of going out, finding a novice and starting all over again," Armstrong said. Primma was discovered, as a six-year-old, by the Belgian dealer, Francois Mathy — but did not impress at first. "She was in a field, covered in mud and looked a wreck," Armstrong said. Such is his

regard for the mare now that he is reluctant to ride her in the Jumping Derby on Sunday, the formidable 10-fence course of which includes the Derby Bank with its 10ft 6in drop. "I'd love to have a go," Armstrong said, "but she might well take off straight from the top of the bank. I just don't want to risk it."

John Ledingham, the Irish favourite for the Derby, in which he will ride his top horse, Kibbaha, underlined his form yesterday with an impressive win on his speed horse, Millstreet Ruby, in the Hickstead Salver. The stylish army officer completed the course in 76.55sec, nearly 4sec faster than the runners-up, William Funnell on Comex, the best British Derby horse. "That was medium pace," Ledingham said. "At her fastest, nothing can touch her."

RUGBY UNION

Townsend ready to defend his position

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GREGOR TOWNSEND has been granted his wish to be considered only as a stand-off half by Northampton, but the Scotland player must challenge Paul Grayson for the place when the new league season begins. It looks likely to become a straightforward contest between the two international players now that Townsend's destiny seems to be with Northampton.

Having turned down a six-figure offer from Bath earlier in the week, Townsend told Cardiff yesterday that he could not accept their offer either. He has two years to run on his contract.

Keith Barwell, the Northampton chairman, said: "We will not ask him to play centre for the club. He will only play stand-off, although we have also told Greg that there is no guarantee we can pick him. We shall select the one who is in form."

As consolation, Cardiff, who already have the promising Lee Jarvis to play stand-off, concluded the purchase from Canada of Bobby Ross and John Tait, both of whom played against Wales on their recent North American tour. Ross, a utility player, is a talented goal-kicker, while Tait plays in the second row.

Martin Offiah yesterday left Bedford and was immediately the target for a London first division club, thought to be Harlequins. The London Broncos rugby league wing has promised them a decision today — registration deadline day for this season's Heineken European Cup.

Jeremy Davidson, the Lions lock, has agreed a new three-year contract with London Irish.

Phil Davies, 33, Wales's second most capped forward, has ended his playing days to concentrate on his job as director of rugby at Leeds, the National League One club.

IN BRIEF

Ruthless Rusedski discovers best form

GREG RUSEDSKI rediscovered the kind of form that carried him into the Wimbledon quarter-finals with an impressive victory in the Pilot Pen International at New Haven, Connecticut, yesterday.

The British No 2 encountered stout early resistance from Jeff Salzenstein, an American wild-card entry, but after snatching the first set, Rusedski romped to a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

That left Rusedski with a rest of almost four hours before facing Albert Costa, of Spain, who reached the semi-final of the high-quality tournament in Cincinnati last week. Tim Henman, fortunate in having to play only once in a day, was due to play a third-round match against Brett Steven, of New Zealand.

□ **Bowls:** Norma Shaw, who has won the world singles championship indoors and out, stayed on course to win the national outdoor title for the first time, beating Pauline Proud, from the Isle of Wight, at Levensington Spa yesterday.

She takes on Mary Price, the defending champion, from Burnham, who beat Lyn Green, of Shropshire, 2-1 in the quarter-finals today.

□ **Rugby League:** Gary Mercer, the Leeds Rhinos captain, yesterday received a five-match suspension by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee that rules him out for the remainder of the Stanes Super League season and the opening game in the Premiership. Mercer was also fined £200 for his high tackle on Graeme Bradley, of Bradford Bulls.

□ **Snooker:** Alex Higgins, the former world champion, failed to show up for his first-round match in Plymouth against Munraj Pal in the last of four qualifying tournaments to fill the remaining eight of 32 places on the 96-strong main tour.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ZURICH: IAAF Grand Prix meeting: Men: 100m: 1. J. Fredericks (Nam) 9.95sec; 2. M. Greene (US) 9.99; 3. T. Montgomery (US) 10.0; 200m: 1. J. Montgomery (US) 20.5; 2. A. Thompson (Barb) 20.40; 3. P. Shivers (Barb) 20.51; 400m: 1. M. Black (GB) 45.07; 2. T. Washington (US) 45.1; 3. D. Gonsky (Jap) 44.63; 4. R. Black (GB) 45.07; 500m: 1. W. Hughes (Den) 1min 41.24sec; 1000m: 1. P. Konchesh (Ken) 1:43.80; 1.500m: 1. H. B. Guma (Ken) 3:28.91; 2. F. Guma (Ken) 3:28.95; 3. V. Nyongoso (Burundi) 3:29.43.

10. J. Maycock (GB) 3:33.21; 5,000m: 1. H. Gaborcse (Hun) 16:41.86 (world record); 2. D. Korman (Ken) 16:44.30; 3. P. Tegel (Ken) 16:48.57; 10,000m: 1. W. Kibuka (Ken) 34:00.00; 2. B. Barmasai (Ken) 34:00.35; 3. M. Kozma (Ken) 34:00.70; 1500m: 1. A. Johnson (US) 13.13sec; 2. M. Coles (US) 13.14; 3. A. Jones (GB) 13.21; 4. J. Jackson (GB) 13.30; 400m hurdles: 1. L. Herbert (SA) 48.94; 2. D. Kovacs (Hun) 48.76; 3. J. Mack (GB) 49.26; 500m hurdles: 1. S. Buba (Hun) 5:50m; 2. M. Tarnow (Den) 5:50m; 1000m hurdles: 1. Y. Guma (Ken) 17:29; 2. K. Harrison (US) 17:28; 3. D. Korman (Ken) 17:29.

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SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In last two Refreshers we have looked at the situation where declarer has A J x in the suit led at trick one and dummy has only small cards. If dummy has the 10 it is usually right for declarer to win at trick one, whether he has had a high honour led or a low card led to his right-hand opponent's honour. In this way he will come to a second trick in the suit because dummy's ten will force out the remaining high honour, leaving the jack as a third-round winner.

But to every rule there are the exceptions and it is important to play the whole hand rather than the individual suit combination.

♠ 872	♥ J6	♦ 1095	♣ A64
♠ J963	♥ K9842	♦ 6	♣ QJ5
♠ 873	♥ AKQ	♦ A103	♣ K1083
♠ 872	♥ J6	♦ 1095	♣ A64
♠ J963	♥ K9842	♦ 6	♣ QJ5
♠ 873	♥ AKQ	♦ A103	♣ K1083

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: four of hearts. On West's heart lead East plays the queen. Suppose first that declarer makes the natural-looking play of winning with the ace and running the eight of diamonds. East wins with the queen and plays a second heart. West ducks this and dummy's jack wins the trick. Declarer crosses back to hand with a spade and plays a second diamond. When it is East who has the king declarer is doomed. As soon as East gains the lead he will play another heart and West has three winners in the suit. Now suppose that declarer ducks the queen of hearts at

KEENE ON CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

No change
With two rounds to go in the Smith & Williamson British championship in Hove, a state of draws at the top has meant that there has been no change in the lead and grandmaster Tony Kosten still heads the field. The following two games were amongst the most interesting played in the ninth round.

White: Jonathan Parker
Black: James Plaskett
British championship August 1997

1. d4	c5
2. d5	c6
3. d6	c7
4. Nc3	g6
5. h4	Ng7
6. cxd5	a6
7. Nxd5	O-O
8. Nc3	Qc7
9. Qd3	Qc8
10. Qd3	Qc8
11. Qd3	Qc8
12. Qd3	Qc8
13. Qd3	Qc8
14. Qd3	Qc8
15. Qd3	Qc8
16. Qd3	Qc8
17. Qd3	Qc8
18. Qd3	Qc8
19. Qd3	Qc8
20. Qd3	Qc8

Diagram of final position

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of four): Oxford School: Oxfordshire 180-2 (1st Innings) 117-1 (2nd Innings) 117-1 (3rd Innings) 117-1 (4th Innings) 117-1 (5th Innings) 117-1 (6th Innings) 117-1 (7th Innings) 117-1 (8th Innings) 117-1 (9th Innings) 117-1 (10th Innings) 117-1 (11th Innings) 117-1 (12th Innings) 117-1 (13th Innings) 117-1 (14th Innings) 117-1 (15th Innings) 117-1 (16th Innings) 117-1 (17th Innings) 117-1 (18th Innings) 117-1 (19th Innings) 117-1 (20th Innings) 117-1 (21st Innings) 117-1 (22nd Innings) 117-1 (23rd Innings) 117-1 (24th Innings) 117-1 (25th Innings) 117-1 (26th Innings) 117-1 (27th Innings) 117-1 (28th Innings) 117-1 (29th Innings) 117-1 (30th Innings) 117-1 (31st Innings) 117-1 (32nd Innings) 117-1 (33rd Innings) 117-1 (34th Innings) 117-1 (35th Innings) 117-1 (36th Innings) 117-1 (37th Innings) 117-1 (38th Innings) 117-1 (39th Innings) 117-1 (40th Innings) 117-1 (41st Innings) 117-1 (42nd Innings) 117-1 (43rd Innings) 117-1 (44th Innings) 117-1 (45th 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African masters reign supreme

David Powell, athletics correspondent,
celebrates Kipketer and Gebrselassie

Oh to return 100 years from now and see what history made of Weltklasse 97. Three world records in one night, two by men of the same name, and one from a diminutive Ethiopian who will enter the next century along with Carl Lewis as the greatest athletes of their or any previous generations. Haile Gebrselassie. Anybody arguing?

As a single performance, Wilson Kipketer's destruction of Sebastian Coe's world record in the 800 metres was the supreme moment in the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich on Wednesday evening, but Gebrselassie's run was no less numbing. What stark contrast these two Africans present in ambition, if not in the smooth, effortless action of their running.

Kipketer is content to live his sport in one street, to run the 800 metres and nothing else. Gebrselassie is more a travelling man, wandering up and down the distances, pitching his tent then moving on. "I started in the 800, I will finish in the 800," Kipketer said, in answer to an inquiry

as to whether he might spread his talent over the 1,500 metres, as Coe did. Or how about the 400 metres, as Alberto Juantorena did? "No," was Kipketer's emphatic reply.

Gebrselassie has tried everything from 800 metres to the marathon, though we have yet to be given a good indication of what he may be capable of at either end of this range. At 800 metres, he has run 1min 46sec, but only in training. At the marathon, he has recorded 2hr 52min, when he was 16, at high altitude. Gebrselassie will come back to that distance, eventually, intending to break the world record.

However, from 1,500 metres to 10,000 metres, Gebrselassie has achieved so much that it is hard to know where to start the list. At two miles, 5,000 and 10,000 metres, he has not only set world records but regained them. At the 10,000 metres, he has won one Olympic gold medal and three world championships. Before

entering the senior ranks, he did the double of 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres at the 1992 world junior championships.

Gebrselassie does not save himself just for the summer. He has illuminated dark winters with 3,000 metres and 5,000 metres indoor world records. He has even had the audacity to break 13 minutes indoors before any European had managed it outdoors. Last winter, he won the world indoor 3,000 metre championship and ran the 1,500 metres indoors faster than Noureddine Morceli had ever managed, though he was denied the world record by Hicham El Guerrouj.

Gebrselassie's turn of speed allows him to stalk opponents. So frustrated was Josephat Machuka, from Kenya, with Gebrselassie's sit-and-kick tactics in the 10,000 metres at the world junior championships that, when the Ethiopian passed him close to the finish line, he assaulted him and was disqualified from the silver



Gebrselassie dominates in any way he chooses

medal. In the last fortnight, Gebrselassie has won the world 10,000 metres title in Athens and set his world record here on fast finishes.

Gebrselassie's time in the 5,000 metres in Zurich — 12min 41.86sec — is 26sec faster than the record that stood in 1981, the year in which Coe ran 800 metres in 1min 47.3sec, which would last until Weltklasse 97 as the oldest world record in a championship event. Kipketer ran 1min 42.4sec. Kipketer, at 24, is the same

age as Gebrselassie. While Gebrselassie spends much of his time living and training in Holland, he remains a fully committed Ethiopian. Kipketer, though Kenyan born, now runs for Denmark. He married a Dane and gave up his chance to compete in the Atlanta Olympic Games. He decided that he would run for Denmark or nobody, so the Kenyan authorities blocked his participation. He has, however, built a house in rural Nandi and Kenyans will regard his world record to be at least half theirs.

Politics did not interfere with the world championships in Athens and Kipketer retained his title. He did so a month after equalling Coe's mark in Stockholm and having broken the world indoor record twice in March.

Yet one Wilson Kipketer setting world records is not enough for this sport. Wilson Boit Kipketer, the Boit surfaced on start lists this season to avoid confusion — set the tone for the evening in Zurich on Wednesday with a steeplechase world record of 7min 59.08sec.

GOLF

Webb leads as Open go-slow riles Johnson

By Patricia Davies

KARIE WEBB had a no return in the pro-am at Sunningdale on Wednesday, before the Weetabix Women's British Open, but it was because of a superstition and no cause for alarm. Yesterday, in the first round of the championship proper, the 22-year-old Australian made the game look easy as she breezed to a 65, seven under par.

Liselotte Neumann, the con-

absolute misery watching shot after flipping shot in front of you; it just does your head in. It must drive the spectators mad — they only see about four shots an hour."

Webb, whose shots Johnson spent the day admiring from behind, admitted she scarcely noticed the pace of play, having started rather well. Four consecutive birdies from the second served to concentrate her mind wonderfully. Out in 31, five under par, the Queenslander also birdied the 11th and 12th as she threatened to blow the opposition away. Luckily for them, she grew a little tired towards the end and parred her way home.

Webb, No 1 in her rookie season in the United States last year, with winnings of more than \$1 million, does not look like the superstitious type, but she does not keep score five rounds in a row, hence her pro-am glitch. Helen Alfordson, who has no such qualms, had a 63 on Wednesday, followed by a 69 yesterday.

Webb, who won the title at Woburn two years ago in her first season as a professional, is no longer a surprise packet and she made her playing partners look positively pedestrian, which was some feat, given that they were Nancy Lopez, who won on her last two visits here, in 1978 and



Laura Davies, of England, plays out of the bunker during a frustrating day

1979, and Alison Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion. Lopez struggled to recover that magic touch and will have to improve somewhat on her 77 to make the cut today. She went out in 39, three over par, having saddled herself with double bogey fives at the fourth and eighth, missing the greens and taking three putts.

Nicholas, who had a 75, also suffered on the greens — perhaps the inevitable repayment for all those putts that she holed in the US Women's

Open at Pumpkin Ridge — and so did Laura Davies. Released from the confines of Woburn, the Open's home for seven years, Davies failed to prosper, returning a disappointing 74. She was level par for the four par-fives. The only one that she birdied was the 2nd and she dropped a shot at the 12th, where she drove into the rough, hacked out and eventually took three putts from the front edge.

"It's British Open week," Davies said morosely. She

won the Open at Royal Birkdale in 1986 but has scarcely challenged since. The good news is that the championship will be back at Birkdale in the year 2000, by which time the world No 3 might have sorted out her putting.

Penny Grice-Whittaker, the champion in 1991, withdrew after going out in 44. It was probably shock. She was sterilised earlier this year but found out on Wednesday that she was pregnant again.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

BUNDESRAT

(b) A federal council. Specifically, the upper house of the German or Austrian parliament. Also the federal council of Switzerland. From the German *bund* a confederacy + *rath* a council. "The emperor has power, with consent of the Bundesrat, to declare war in name of the empire."

GONDOLÉ

(a) To travel in a gondola. Also, transitively, to propel a gondola. A back-formation from the romantic but expensive Venetian pleasure punt.

COLETA

(a) A pigtail, worn by a bullfighter as a mark of his profession. The diminutive of the Spanish *cola* a tail, from the Latin *cola* or *cauda* a tail.

FURCAL

(c) Forked or furcate. Especially of or pertaining to a furca, or process in the thorax of many insects. From the Latin *furca* a fork.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1.Rx7? Qxd7? 2.Qxg5 and the mate threat on g7 means White will keep his extra piece 2.Bxb3 g6 3.Qh6 and mates.

BOXING

Collins vetoes title challenger

STEVE COLLINS, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, is refusing to meet Joe Calzaghe, of Wales, the No 1 challenger, and walked out of a press conference in London yesterday that had been called to announce the date and venue of the contest (Slickstar Sport writes).

Collins left after handing out a statement that said that he had returned from a family holiday to be told that he had to take on Calzaghe in Wideson on September 6. Collins had understood that

the WBO had ordered a bout between Juan Jimenez, of Paraguay, and Ray Close, of Northern Ireland, to decide who should be the leading challenger.

"Suddenly it appears that Calzaghe is No 1 in circumstances where neither he, Jimenez, nor Close have engaged in any professional contests that might have improved their ratings," Collins said. "I've maintained the highest professional standards in boxing, providing my fans with world-class fights of the highest distinction.

However, a contest with Calzaghe, with no disrespect to the fighter, is a bridge too far." Collins said that he wanted to unify the super-middleweight championship by boxing Robin Reid, of Runcorn, the World Boxing Council champion and Frankie Liles, of the United States, who holds the World Boxing Association belt.

Calzaghe, who is unbeaten in 20 contests, said: "I am surprised. But I don't think he wants to fight me. I know I can beat him. He's obviously worried about me."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Dancing through the years

Summer Dance: The Wrecker's Ball
BBC2, 7.30pm

Some detect a dark side to the work of the American choreographer Paul Taylor, even in pieces as seemingly sunny as the trilogy presented here. Each is danced to the popular music of a decade and it would be hard to find anything more upbeat than the Andrews Sisters, whose joyous close harmony numbers have been chosen to represent the 1940s. The dancing is suitably exuberant, as it is during the 1950s sequences, which includes among other period roles Louise Danegren's *Does Your Cheeking Gum Lose Its Flavour on the Beat-post Overnight?* Only when we get to the 1960s, with the wistful songs of Harry Nilsson, does a possibly sharper edge emerge. But this gloriously inventive fusion of lighting, costumes, song and dance adds up to one of the most accessible programmes of the *Summer Dance* season.

Room 101
BBC2, 10.00pm

It is Terry Wogan's turn to make public his pet hates and his normal gentility acquires an unaccustomed edge. He reserves particular venom for *Have I Got News For You*. It reminds him of the lower state of school who never stopped the class or made the football team or got the girls and went round sneering at everybody. That *Have I Got News For You* and *Room 101* are made by the same company, Hat Trick, is a nice irony. The betting is that Angus Deayton and company are already trying to sign up Wogan for the next series. His "dislikes" though less vehemently expressed, include *EastEnders*, Eric Cantona (as philosopher rather than footballer) and sex scenes in wildlife films. He would also like to get his revenge on talk show guests who refuse to talk. Can he have Anne Bancroft in mind? He can.

Fraser: Mixed Doubles
Channel 4, 10.00pm

A show which has run as long as this one accumulates a stock of largely unrelated storylines which from time to time can be made explicit. One such is the secret love which the twitish Niles (David Hyde Pierce) has nursed for housekeeper Daphne (Jane Leeves). When Daphne is dumped



Emberant dancing (BBC2, 7.30pm)

by her boyfriend, he sees his chance. But being Niles he is too nervous and indecisive to seize it. While he dithers she finds another man, prompting him to get a girlfriend just to spite her. This is by no means the end of the pairings-off, as the writers weave a web of complications in the tradition of the best stage farces. Nobody can claim that *Fraser* has enormous depth but, nor, like so many other American comedies, does it rely on one-liners. The deft plotting is a sitcom pleasure which is getting rarer.

King of the Hill
Channel 4, 10.30pm

The cartoon comedy about a Texas family distinguished by its sheer ordinariness continues to gather strength. Not only is the show funny and cleverly structured but it has a nice satirical bite. In this week's episode the nerdy Hank catches 12-year-old Bobby smoking and decides to exercise what he pompously calls his parenting skills. These amount to aversion therapy. Bobby is required to smoke cartoon after cartoon of cigarettes in the hope that this will cure him for good. The exercise so completely backfires that not only does little Bobby hooked on the weed but both parents resume a taste for the "nasty, filthy" habit they gave up ten years before. It is left to niece Luann to provide a beacon of sanity: "I'm sick of dysfunctional families. I came from one and I'm not letting it happen to you." Peter Wayman

RADIO CHOICE

Lord of the Forest
Radio 4, 11.30am

Here, if ever there was one, is a jumbo-sized edition of *The Natural History Programme*. It was put together at the BBC's studios in Bristol. Where else? No other natural history unit in the country — probably in the world — turns out such a vast amount of high-quality programmes for radio and TV. In India, the lord of the forest is the elephant, as distinct from the lion which is king of every jungle. Joanna Flinck's report from India defines the central role the elephant plays in the country's cultural and religious life. She tried her visit very well. It coincided with what is considered to be the most spectacular festival involving elephants — the temple festival of Pongam at Trichur in Kerala state.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Mark Goodier 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow: Live from Tokyo 12.50pm News 1.25pm News 2.00pm News 2.30pm News 3.00pm News 3.30pm News 4.00pm News 4.30pm News 5.00pm News 5.30pm News 6.00pm News 6.30pm News 7.00pm News 7.30pm News 8.00pm News 8.30pm News 9.00pm News 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm News 11.00pm News 11.30pm News 12.00pm News 12.30pm News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30pm News 7.00pm News 7.30pm News 8.00pm News 8.30pm News 9.00pm News 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm News 11.00pm News 11.30pm News 12.00pm News 12.30pm News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30pm News 6.00pm News 6.30pm News 7.00pm News 7.30pm News 8.00pm News 8.30pm News 9.00pm News 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm News 11.00pm News 11.30pm News 12.00pm News 12.30pm News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am 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Of the Andes, airports and arboreal ardour

This time last week I was wondering what we would all find to watch after the end of *This Life*. Little did I know that it would involve a bunch of llamas trotting up and down the Andes and me staying up very late to listen to people talk about tree-bugging. Somebody should have warned me.

We began, at least on familiar enough territory with *Arboreal* (BBC1), which you may recall is the series we disagree on. You all like it (the series has been attracting audiences of more than ten million) and I don't. Or not much — if pushed. I will, 'own to' a grudging admiration for Steve and Russell, the resident press corps, who earn their living by walking backwards through *Arboreal*, trying to coax a smile and a coherent sentence out of jet-lagged filmmakers. It's a tough job, and I'm very glad that it's they who do it and not I.

Another positive thing about last night's concluding instalment was that, at least, there were no parking crises in it. I have only a faint appetite for watching other people's parking problems on television and *Driving School* pretty much suited it. Another electrical fire in short-story? I just didn't want to know.

I have speculated about the origins of my peculiar indifference to the series. Does it disguise a deep-seated fear of flying? Or a morbid terror of departure lounge waiting? Or is it just an allergic reaction to the sort of cheap programming which, out of the kindness of its heart, sets out to make stars of us all? Or at least out of people such as Garth, who spent last night sipping cannabis oil of Caribbean oranges, or Anita, who as manager of the royal suite, marked the end of her tour of personal celebrity by being over-familiar with everybody from the

Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, to the Prince of Wales.

Mind you, I did enjoy her being over-familiar with Bob Aylton, the chief executive of British Airways, whose continuing problems with recalcitrant cabin crew means he now has to do the meet and greet himself. Sadly, the cameras did not catch him in action ("can I see your boarding card, your Royal Highness?" or "left aisle please, Mr Cook") but they were there to capture his embarrassment after the doors on the Hong Kong-bound jumbo closed with him still on board. Shame — but he'd have been brilliant at the duty-free.

Over on BBC2, *The Fast Show* claimed another victim as *James and Les* was operated with a shot of a motley-looking pan-pipe band. As far as I could see, Paul Whitehouse wasn't in it, but it was difficult to

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

tell under those Panama hats and knitted cardigans.

The place was Bolivia, the time was that annoyingly vague present tense that documentary makers are so fond of, and the big question was: would the people of Tinku be going to the *tinku*? The answers, eventually, was yes, but the film-makers clearly didn't have enough footage of that, so the llamas were sent off on a long,

photogenic walk. Should be good for a slow-moving half-an-hour.

Loaded with ingeniously freeze-dried potatoes and rock salt (but not, alas, a deep-fat fryer) the llamas made the 7,000-ft descent into the valley, where their owner, Florencio, swapped the potatoes and salt for maize and brought them all back again. The llamas, being slower but better tempered than their camel-like ancestors, endured this with considerable good grace. On the other hand (hoof?), they might just have been worrying about the *tinku*.

Tinku, you see, can be fatal for human being and llama alike. For humans, the ostensible purpose is to dress up, drink and dance; but you know how it is. You have a bucket-load of *chicha* and suddenly it seems to be the best idea in the Andes to be battering your neighbour over the head with his own pan-pipes. As for the llamas, they know they're in trouble the minute

somebody starts playing nice music to them. It's supposed to take their mind off what happens next. I mean next. Somebody gives them a lovely woolly blanket ("Ooh, a lovely woolly blanket") and then... it's straight off to llama heaven.

For those with the stamina to stay up for it, *For the Love of... (Channel 4)* turned out to be an odd but strangely enjoyable programme. For this opening night the subject was trees, which explained why I was watching (big tree man, me) why an ivy-strewn studio was filled with those similarly inclined, but not why the show was hosted by Jon Ronson, who doesn't really strike you as an outdoors type.

Nor does he strike you as the late-night, studio discussion show type, but that's rather the point. Slumped in an over-large leather armchair, looking frail and sound-

ing frail, Ronson is the antithesis of television convention, apparently deliberately under-researched and under-prepared. It's a device that allows him to fire off questions such as "do you think trees have different personalities?" or "how do you approach trees?" and then follow them up with the defiantly lame "what do you all think of that?" It shouldn't work, but on the evidence of this first show he might just get away with it.

Particularly refreshing was the lack of staged hostility, which characterises so many programmes of this type. *World of Wonder*, its makers, had selected a broad panel of dendrophiles to perch on its plush, velvet sofas, from out-and-out tree-huggers to former Forestry Commission chaps who preferred the formality of a handshake. They shouldn't have got on but they did, just as the programme itself shouldn't have worked but somehow managed to.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (44221)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (7) (56679)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (5251912)
9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (5232202)
9.50am Esther: Guests explain how it feels to have their lives invaded by the paparazzi (1) (5135589)
10.20am Put it to the Test (5155589)
10.45am Carier's Caribbean: Robert Carier prepares cream of crab soup and brochettes on Barbados (1) (2167554)
11.00am News (7) and weather (233405)
11.05am News South An habitual liar comes to Fraser and Vecchio with claims that his niece has been abducted by aliens (1) (2721616)
11.50am Good Neighbours (8797979)
12.00am News (7) and weather (4509405)
12.05pm Wipeout (1) (8762005)
12.35pm Neighbours (1) (1049479)
1.00pm News (7) and weather (26738)
1.30pm Regional News (8890196)
1.48pm Columbus: Any Old Port in a Storm: A savvy vineyard owner's financial well-being is jeopardised by his playboy brother. With Peter Falk and Donald Pleasence (1) (4026600)
3.10pm Quincy: The coroner's foster son, becomes infected with bubonic plague (1) (1088029)
4.00pm Popeye (2052833) 4.10pm To Me, To You (5377055) 4.55pm I'll Never Marry (7587824) 5.00pm Newsround: How youngsters in India are celebrating the anniversary of independence (1) (2658252) 5.10pm Record Breakers: Cliff Richard makes a dream come true (1) (7) (5136738)
5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1484467)
6.00pm News (7) and weather (202)
6.30pm Regional News (554)
7.00pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook: Snooker player John Parrott and Neighbours star Emma Hamilton take part in the coeliac challenge show (1) (1466)
7.30pm Top of the Pops (1) (738)
8.00pm Only Fools and Horses: Del becomes a showbiz entrepreneur after discovering a Tom Jones-style singer at a club. Starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Tessa Peaslee-Jones (1) (1131663)
8.50pm Get Fit with Brittas Gordon tries a few new sports and Kris Akabusi explains his passion for tennis (1) (148592)
9.00pm News (7) and weather (5283)
9.30pm Sneakers (1992) Thriller set in the world of computer hacking, with Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier and Dan Aykroyd. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (8467)
11.30pm Married for Murder (1997) with Treat Williams, Aylmer Hutton and Robert Iler. A twisty thriller about a smooth-talking murderer who seduces, wed and then kills women to collect on the insurance. Directed by Yves Simoneau (1) (513370)
1.05am Midnight Fear (1991) with August West and David Carradine. A teenage girl finds her idyllic vacation alone at a country house turns into a nightmare. Directed by Bill Condon (8902500)
2.30pm Weather (7526500)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Autism (5190919)
6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm Teleclub (1) (4474221) 7.55pm Charlie Chalk (1) (1570009) 8.10pm Raccoons (1) (1574459) 8.25pm Cartoon: Caters (1) (5333552) 8.55pm Spiderman (1) (7038181)
9.00pm Sale of the Century (1) (5135589) 10.00pm Snobs: Adventure (1) (7182734) 10.25pm Mr Bean (1) (4474318) 10.45pm Teleclub (1) (338195)
11.15pm Great Expectations (1946) starring John Mills, Alec Guinness and Valerie Hobson. Oscar-winning adaptation of the Dickens novel. Directed by David Lean (1) (4827732)
1.10pm For the Love of It (1) (51337009) 1.15pm Blockbusters (8898950) 2.05pm The Season (1) (8973405)
2.25pm Racing from Newbury Coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and the 3.40 races (848370)
3.55pm News (7) and weather (7090461)
4.00pm International Women's Golf: The British Open: Action from the second round at Sunningdale (83398)
5.30pm Going, Going, Gone With Diana Moran (831)
6.00pm The Burning Hills (1956) with Tab Hunter, Natalie Wood and Earl Holliman. Western adventure about a farmer in conflict with a cattle baron. Stuart Heisler directs (1) (68931)
7.30pm Summer Dances: Wreckers: Paul Taylor's vision of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, an amalgamation of three of his most popular works, *Company B*, *Funny Papers* and *A Field of Grass*, set to music from the Andrews Sisters to Harry Nilsson (2209)
8.30pm Gardeners' World: Freebie cuttings for winter colour: a Cornish late summer garden; and the results of the practical gardening trials conducted earlier in the year (1) (7283)
9.00pm Bottom: Riche and Eddie attempt to get rich (1) (8825)
9.30pm Rob C. Neelitt: The shrewish Scot is suddenly tamed (1) (5741)
10.00pm Room 101: Terry Wogan reveals the things he hates the most, which include Eric Cantona (1) (74252)
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (73047)
11.15pm Edinburgh Nights: The first of three comedy specials from the Edinburgh Festival (470905)
11.55pm The Night Porter (1974) with Dirk Bogarde, Charlotte Rampling and Philippe Leroy. Controversial drama focusing on a sadomasochistic relationship. Directed by Liliana Cavani (198329)
1.50am Weather (8522121)

BBC3

6.00am GMTV (7612047) 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw (1) (5226541) 9.55pm Judge Judy (1) (3194467)
10.20pm News (1) (8891115)
10.25pm Regional News (1) (8894466)
10.30pm And the Sex Will Tell First of a two-part drama based on a true story about a mysterious murder on remote island. Concludes tomorrow (1) (5155589)
12.20pm Regional News (1) (4509889)
12.30pm News (7) and weather (1080776)
12.55pm Designed by Emanuel (1) (1053487)
1.25pm Home and Away (1) (14003028)
1.50pm Hart to Hart: Old Friends Never Die (1994) Crime caper with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers. White at a party Jennifer overhears a plot to kill Jonathan (1608028)
3.19pm HVT CrimeStoppers (2462850)
3.20pm News (1) (2498963)
3.25pm Regional News (1) (2488134)
3.30pm Rosie and Jim (1) (8417937) 3.40pm Paddington Bear (554467) 3.50pm Zzzap! (1) (5139797) 4.00pm Viktor (1) (2452009)
4.15pm The Real Ghostbusters (1) (8082824) 4.40pm You'll Never Believe It (1) (2487660)
5.10pm A Country Practice (5534134)
5.35pm Regional News (1) (11202)
5.40pm News (7) and weather (827283)
6.00pm Home and Away (1) (1478370)
6.25pm HVT Weather (387689)
6.30pm The West Tonight (1) (950)
7.00pm Beadle's Hotshots (1) (8554)
7.30pm Coronation Street: Martin convinces Gill to accept Natalie's invitation (1) (134)
8.00pm The Bill: Day jumps at the idea when a local cab driver offers to help Sun Hill CID collar a drug dealer (1) (5202)
8.30pm Surprise Surprise: Helping Cilla Black to bring surprises to Buster Merryfield, Nigel Mansell and T'Pau (1) (21825)
9.30pm Tarrant's 10 Years on TV (1) (14187)
10.00pm News at Ten (1) (78028)
10.30pm The West Tonight Update (113115)
10.40pm Life and Love (1) (11134)
12.10pm Weekly World News: Sensational stories taken from the American tabloid newspaper (810478)
12.40pm The Ross Star: Ross Star: Guests include author Greg Williams, comedian Mandy Knight and Yvonne Smith, the voice of Lisa in *The Simpsons* (2494988)
2.10pm Elvis for Sale (9491535)
2.40pm Elvis: Lost Love (1) (1473177)
3.10pm It Happened in Rome (1955, b/w) Light-hearted romp with June Laverick, Isabelle Corey and Ingeborg Schoener. Directed by Antonio Pietrangeli (422333)
4.50pm Phenomena (88319158) 5.00pm Coronation Street (1) (28210) 5.30pm News (82245)

BBC4

6.00am Open University: Autism (5190919)
6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
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1.50am Weather (8522121)

BBC5

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BBC6

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4.00pm International Women's Golf: The British Open: Action from the second round at Sunningdale (83398)
5.30pm Going, Going, Gone With Diana Moran (831)
6.00pm The Burning Hills (1956) with Tab Hunter, Natalie Wood and Earl Holliman. Western adventure about a farmer in conflict with a cattle baron. Stuart Heisler directs (1) (68931)
7.30pm Summer Dances: Wreckers: Paul Taylor's vision of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, an amalgamation of three of his most popular works, *Company B*, *Funny Papers* and *A Field of Grass*, set to music from the Andrews Sisters to Harry Nilsson (2209)
8.30pm Gardeners' World: Freebie cuttings for winter colour: a Cornish late summer garden; and the results of the practical gardening trials conducted earlier in the year (1) (7283)
9.00pm Bottom: Riche and Eddie attempt to get rich (1) (8825)
9.30pm Rob C. Neelitt: The shrewish Scot is suddenly tamed (1) (5741)
10.00pm Room 101: Terry Wogan reveals the things he hates the most, which include Eric Cantona (1) (74252)
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (73047)
11.15pm Edinburgh Nights: The first of three comedy specials from the Edinburgh Festival (470905)
11.55pm The Night Porter (1974) with Dirk Bogarde, Charlotte Rampling and Philippe Leroy. Controversial drama focusing on a sadomasochistic relationship. Directed by Liliana Cavani (198329)
1.50am Weather (8522121)

BBC7

6.00am Open University: Autism (5190919)
6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm Teleclub (1) (4474221) 7.55pm Charlie Chalk (1) (1570009) 8.10pm Raccoons (1) (1574459) 8.25pm Cartoon: Caters (1) (5333552) 8.55pm Spiderman (1) (7038181)
9.00pm Sale of the Century (1) (5135589) 10.00pm Snobs: Adventure (1) (7182734) 10.25pm Mr Bean (1) (4474318) 10.45pm Teleclub (1) (338195)
11.15pm Great Expectations (1946) starring John Mills, Alec Guinness and Valerie Hobson. Oscar-winning adaptation of the Dickens novel. Directed by David Lean (1) (4827732)
1.10pm For the Love of It (1) (51337009) 1.15pm Blockbusters (8898950) 2.05pm The Season (1) (8973405)
2.25pm Racing from Newbury Coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and the 3.40 races (848370)
3.55pm News (7) and weather (7090461)
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1.50am Weather (8522121)

BBC8

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6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm Teleclub (1) (4474221) 7.55pm Charlie Chalk (1) (1570009) 8.10pm Raccoons (1) (1574459) 8.25pm Cartoon: Caters (1) (5333552) 8.55pm Spiderman (1) (7038181)
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BBC9

6.00am Open University: Autism (5190919)
6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm Teleclub (1) (4474221) 7.55pm Charlie Chalk (1) (1570009) 8.10pm Raccoons (1) (1574459) 8.25pm Cartoon: Caters (1) (5333552) 8.55pm Spiderman (1) (7038181)
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BBC10

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6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm Teleclub (1) (4474221) 7.55pm Charlie Chalk (1) (1570009) 8.10pm Raccoons (1) (1574459) 8.25pm Cartoon: Caters (1) (5333552) 8.55pm Spiderman (1) (7038181)
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BBC11

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6.25am Europe of the Regions? (5132825)
7.15pm See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and signing (9080399)
7.30pm

